

**Larry Kramer needs a liver**  
*Outspoken playwright, activist in line for transplant, hopes operation will open door for others*

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**Gay GOP think tank**  
*Group tries to achieve fairness for gays.*

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**Change is good**  
*New season in music, theatre, books and TV.*  
*see Arts section*



# BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## High school students like gays, invisibility, survey says

by Katie Szymanski

**M**ainstreaming the LGBT culture may have made gays more acceptable in theory, but all the de-sexualization has not done as much to make the younger generation more comfortable with gays in real-life situations, according to a survey developed by New York's Hamilton College, soon to be released on September 3 by the cable channel MTV.

A sampling of 1,003 high school seniors across the country showed that while the majority of young people would be comfortable with gay marriage (66 percent), gay teachers (63 percent), or gay scout leaders (70 percent), only 31 percent said they would be comfortable at a party attended by both gay and straight couples (presumably, where they would actually have to witness same-sex affection), and 39 percent agree with the statement that "gay lifestyles are morally wrong."

Additionally, 92 percent agreed that homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the military. But only 40 percent said they should serve openly, while 52 percent favored the current policy that requires gay service members to conceal their sexual orientation.

Overall, 77 percent agreed that gays and lesbians make unique contributions to society, but only 55 percent disagreed with the statement that "gays have the right to exist, but should hide their sexuality."

"The good news for gays and their advocates is that the big majority of students surveyed have strongly pro-gay opinions and they are much more liberal than adults on issues from gay marriages to gay scoutmasters," said a

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## Ready for the pitch

Sharon Smith, the partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple, prepares to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the August 25 Oakland A's game at Network Associates Coliseum. Smith was joined on the field by members of the St. Mary's lacrosse team, which Whipple coached before her death. The A's beat the visiting Detroit Tigers 6-1.

Jane Philomen Cleland



## Oakland ushers in 5th annual Pride celebration

by Katie Szymanski

**E**ast Bay Pride is here, with a series of activities guaranteed to combine intellect and exhibitionism, community organizing and commercial consumerism. An event to write home about that still manages to be grassroots in nature, East Bay Pride festivities kicked off on Sunday with the International Lesbian and Gay Association's Global Gay Summit, a gathering that runs through Saturday, September 1 and addresses racism, homophobia, religion, health, women's issues, and transgender empowerment.

Continuing tonight and tomorrow on August 30 and 31 are a variety of activities for crowds of all backgrounds and interests at "Pride Park" in Preservation Park at the intersection of Martin Luther King and City Walk. Billed as "two evenings of queer culture," Pride Park features seven different performance venues for theatre, dance, poetry, blues, jazz, comedy, cabaret, and visual art. Stage hours are 9 p.m. to midnight. Also today (Thursday, August 30), all day, is a conference for LGBT elders at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland; call (510) 583-9638 for more information.

ILGA's Global Gay Summit will host closing ceremonies on Saturday, September 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a march and rally to protest the United Nations' exclusion of LGBT issues at conferences in Geneva and Durban. The march, which takes issue with the censorship of gay sexual issues during the recent U.N. special session on HIV/AIDS and the vote to ban ILGA from representation at the U.N. racism conference, begins at the State Building at 1:30 p.m. and



A Native American dancer helped open the Global Gay Summit in Oakland, which began Tuesday, August 28. The summit is part of a week of Pride events that culminate with Saturday's Pride festival.

ends at Oakland City Hall.

East Bay Pride 2001 runs all day on Saturday, September 1 at Frank Ogawa Plaza at the corner of 14th and Broadway in Oakland. The fifth annual Pride festival features three music stages, 100 community booths, historical displays, and two art galleries. Headliners include Sister Sledge, Martha Wash, Pansy Division, Tribe 8, Thunderpussy, a solid collection of international DJs and hip-hop artists, and a women's lineup that includes favorites like Ferron and Orchestra d'Soul. Admission is \$5.

For more information on this week's events, visit [www.eastbaypride.org](http://www.eastbaypride.org), or [www.ilgaokland2001.org](http://www.ilgaokland2001.org). ▼

## Angry Troy Young

**SF man arrested with Ezerski lashes out at police, media, Begoon; says he has 'super hero' complex**

by Ed Walsh

**T**he San Francisco man who be-friended and was later arrested in Reno with Florida murder suspect Adam Ezerski is blasting the media and police for demonizing Ezerski.

"He's a sweet innocent 19-year-old kid," said Troy Young in an exclusive jailhouse in-

terview with the *Bay Area Reporter* and KGO-TV news, "and I think that's really sad and that just shows what our media and our police forces have come to."

"The media and the police really had things bent out of shape and had a 19-year-old kid running scared for his life and threw a lot of false accusations at him about killing people and trying to kill other people."

Ezerski was initially suspected of killing two gay men in South Florida last month before coming to San Francisco and attempting to kill a gay man here. Now, police say they don't think he was involved in the murder of



Troy Young

one of those men, 76-year-old Irving Sicherer. Ezerski admitted to killing the second man, Anthony Martilotto, 39, in a Fort Lauderdale hotel room, but told police and told the *B.A.R.* in an exclusive interview last week that he was acting in self-defense.



Adam Ezerski

Young was arrested with Ezerski in a Reno hotel room on Friday night, August 17. He said he met him either on Monday or Tuesday of that week.

"I met him in the Castro," said Young. "I asked him if he wanted to smoke a joint and he said, 'You betcha.' And we smoked a joint and started hanging out, that's all."

Young said he sensed that Ezerski was in trouble but didn't know how much trouble

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## A mother grieves



Janie Phibben/Gladnet

**P**auline Mitchell, mother of Fred Martinez Jr., who was murdered in Colorado in June, spoke at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco Saturday, August 25. Martinez, a Native American, has been described as two-spirit, gay, and transgender in media reports. Mitchell's San Francisco talk was preceded by a march organized by Seth Watkins, who said he was moved by her words and bravery. Mitchell spoke of Fred's spirit being lifted up into the heavens in the form of an eagle and instilling in her the strength to go on without him. Mitchell has taken hold of the tragic death of her youngest son and told his story to hundreds of people in Colorado and other states.

## Supes OK dance permit bill

by Joe Dignan

**J**ubilant and a techno beat echoed down the marble corridor from the open door of Supervisor Chris Daly's office in City Hall on Monday night, August 27, as supporters crowded in to celebrate a victory in his campaign to take some power out of the hands of San Francisco Police by eliminating the dance hall keeper's permit in San Francisco. "Where's Chris?" asked one partygoer.

"Went to get more ice," replied another.

"I was a bartender in a nightclub for two years. As the supervisor for District Six I have done a lot of work on housing, homelessness, and services for seniors and families. But as the youngest supervisor, I wanted to do something for young people," Daly said.

His measure, ultimately a compromise between late night advocates, police, and neighborhood groups, eliminates the requirement for a separate permit to allow dancing in a venue which is already licensed to present entertainment.

The legislation must be signed by the mayor before it goes into effect.

The dance hall permit statutes have been used by the Police Department to control, and in some cases close, clubs which have, in their view, become policing problems. The statutes date from an era when San Francisco was a wide open city, "dance hall" was a euphemism for place of assignation, and police had broad discretionary powers over nightlife.

"We are trying to equalize dance with other types of entertainment. Dance has become a part of modern culture," said Ter-

rance Alan, chair of the San Francisco Late Night Coalition, an organization of club patrons, promoters, DJs, and venue owners.

In its original form, the legislation would have greatly changed the late night scene by allowing dance in any of the 546 venues licensed for public assembly in San Francisco. These range from church basements to Pacific Bell Park, according to Fire Department spokesman Captain Peter Howes.

Critics of the measure, including the Police Department, stated that the original legislation did not include adequate provisions for public hearings or neighborhood review of new dance venues.

"We were not going to support it, because it cut the public out of the process. That's unacceptable to the department. We didn't know whether the places would be necessarily safe or not because the inspections were not there. We also look at issues like parking and traffic, which are huge in San Francisco," said Sergeant William Coggan.

"Neighborhood concerns have been addressed and new coalitions were formed between late night advocates, businesses, and neighbors," said Supervisor Mark Leno of the compromise measure.

"Clearly the place of entertain-

ment and dance hall keepers' permit process together was a bureaucratic nightmare," said Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who helped engineer the compromise.

"The dance hall keeper's permit was redundant and anachronistic," continued Leno.

"We're very happy with the way it turned out," added Coggan.

There are approximately 400 outstanding entertainment permits, according to the Police Department's Ed Anzore. One hundred and ninety-three of those places are already licensed as dance halls. The net effect of the legislation is that dancing will now be allowed in the approximately 200 others without the need for a special permit.

Practically, that means places such as the Bar on Castro and the Detour, which fall into that group, would be able to allow dancing without an additional permit.

Any other venue would still have to apply for a dance hall keepers' permit from the Police Department.

Police may deny dance permits, based on, in addition to other criteria, the moral character of the applicant.

"Moral character is still in  
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## Sidewalk sale to benefit AIDS groups this weekend

by Katie Szymanski

**N**ow that the winter months of July and August have come to a close, local merchants have been doing some spring cleaning. New treasures, gifts, and better quality decorative accessories donated by the San Francisco International Gift Fair and an anonymous Union Square retailer can be found this weekend at the Labor Day sidewalk sale hosted by Under One Roof.

Thrown three times a year by the nonprofit AIDS fundraising retail store, the upcoming sidewalk sale runs Friday, August 31 through Monday, September 3 and will charge low wholesale prices or below for some of the

season's hottest items. The object is to sell everything by the end of the sale, so come with a list of personal desires and holiday shopping goals, and leave with a few bargains in hand.

Under One Roof gives 100 percent of its profits to nearly 50 AIDS service organizations, including the AIDS Emergency Fund, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, and Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center. Over \$7 million has been raised since its opening more than 10 years ago.

Located at 549 Castro Street, the sidewalk sale is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call (415) 503-2300. ▼

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# Milk Club picks Britt, Leal rebuffed for now

by Cynthia Laird

Former San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt received the endorsement in his bid for the 13th District Assembly seat at the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club's meeting last Tuesday, August 21. Britt, who is running to replace Democratic Assemblywoman Carole Migden, received 75 percent of the votes at the Milk Club's endorsement meeting, beating fellow candidate Supervisor Mark Leno, who received 32 votes, compared to 89 for Britt.

"Harry has done more than anyone, more perhaps than Harvey Milk himself, to carry the values of independence, community empowerment, and social justice into San Francisco political life," Jerry Threet, Milk Club president, said in a statement. "I am thrilled that the Milk Club has overwhelmingly endorsed Harry's bid for the Assembly."

Threet added that Milk Club members rejected a last-minute coordinated attack on Britt from Leno and former Mayor Art Agnos. "It is unfortunate that Leno and Agnos chose to unfairly attack one of the political heroes of our community," Threet added. "Ultimately, however, I believe this effort ended up backfiring on the Leno campaign as even Leno supporters in the club recoiled from these tactics."

Threet was referring to a letter Agnos sent to club members shortly before the August 21 endorsement meeting in which he was critical of Britt's tenure on the Board of Supervisors. Britt did not endorse Agnos when he ran for mayor.

The Democratic primary for the Assembly race takes place in March 2002.

## Treasurer's race

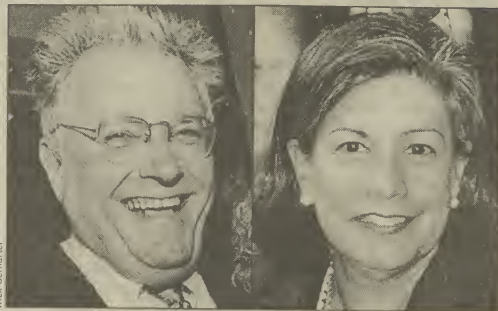
In another matter at last week's Milk Club meeting, members decided to take "no position" on the November race for treasurer. Incumbent Treasurer Susan Leal, a Latina lesbian, received 53 percent of the votes, while 47 percent of the votes were for "no endorsement." In an e-mail response, Threet told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the club would hold a runoff in September between Leal and "no endorsement."

"The majority of Milk Club members seem to believe that Leal is doing a good job as treasurer and voted to endorse her," Threet said. "Others expressed doubts concerning her commitment to working people and community empowerment, believing she is too aligned with downtown interests. This split kept Leal from getting the 60 percent she needed for endorsement. She has another month to reach out to club members before we revisit the endorsement in this race."

Leal faces only minimal opposition in her bid for re-election. The other candidate is Carlos Petroni, who has run unsuccessfully for several city offices over the years.

Reached Monday, August 27, Leal told the *B.A.R.* that she was disappointed by the club's initial action, but put a positive spin on the matter.

"I'm glad that a majority of people voting in the Milk Club took notice of the performance of my office over some political posi-



Ex-Supervisor Harry Britt and Treasurer Susan Leal

tions I may have taken," Leal said.

Leal supported Mayor Willie Brown over Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano in the last mayoral race, and supports Leno over Britt in the Assembly contest. Despite those positions, which likely upset some club

members, Leal said that since becoming treasurer in 1998 she has vastly improved the office.

"I've increased the collection of revenue and I've had many people tell me I'm doing a good job and going after downtown businesses,"

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## Take a cab

by Jane Warner

A series of robberies involving the same suspect have been occurring in the Castro and Mission areas. On August 22 at 2 a.m., two women were walking on the 400 block of Guerrero when they noticed a man following them. Alarmed, both women crossed the street in an attempt to get away from him. As they picked up their pace, so did their follower, quickly running behind them. The man grabbed a shoulder purse from one of the women, pulling her to the ground. Described as African American, 6 feet 3 inches, 200 pounds, with short cropped hair, a beard and mustache, the thief fits the description of a suspect in a robbery against a couple at 15th and Dolores on August 18. The suspect in that case accosted a couple after jumping out of an older



## Crime &amp; Punishment

blue station wagon, striking the man in the head and stealing the woman's purse.

On August 24 at 5:50 a.m., a woman was walking on 18th Street near Dolores Park when she noticed a man watching her. Frightened, the woman quickened her pace and crossed the street when she heard steps running up behind her. Before she could react, the man grabbed her, clasp his right hand against her mouth and whispering, "Hey, little girl, come on." The woman pulled away, trying to head for the street where someone would see her, but a struggle ensued. The assailant finally broke the strap off her shoulder bag and started to run with her purse in hand. The woman chased after the robber but lost sight of him as they neared Guerrero Street. Described as African American, 6 feet 2 inches, 230 pounds, wearing a dark colored baseball cap and dark clothing, the

suspected thief fits the description of the robberies above.

Anyone with information about these crimes is encouraged to contact SFPD's robbery division at (415) 553-1201.

## Love bites

Fronting Walgreens, 498 Castro, August 25, 11:45 a.m.: A Labrador mix dog that was leashed and standing with her owner in front of Walgreens was approached by a stranger who bent down to pet her. The owner of the dog was momentarily distracted and not watching the interaction when suddenly he heard the stranger cry out in pain. Blood squirted from the man's face as he stood up, a victim of the Labrador's bite. An ambulance was summoned and the man was taken to Kaiser Hospital where he was treated for three puncture wounds to his mouth. In a statement given to police, the victim claimed total responsibility for the incident. The dog was released to her owner and the case was turned over to Animal Care and Control for further investigation. ▼

## Guerneville anti-gay attacks energize the community

by Katie Szymanski

Visitors to the Russian River village of Guerneville no doubt have noticed the "Hate Stops Here" signs that adorn many of the merchants' doorways downtown. Part of a campaign to raise community awareness, combat prejudice, and advertise safe places for customers, the signs are a comfort in the LGBT haven.

But as gay-popular as Guerneville may be, visitors and residents alike were reminded last weekend that it remains an area sometimes plagued with strife.

At approximately 2 a.m. on August 26, three gay men were verbally harassed and threatened on Main and Church streets by a man and woman, both residents of Guerneville, according to San Francisco leatherman and Human Rights Commission LGBT Advisory Committee member Gary Virginia, who was fresh from an AIDS fundraiser he co-emceed with Donna Sachet at the Triple R Resort when he witnessed the attack. The assailants reportedly

threw an object at the three men, then approached one gay man and began punching and kicking him.

Virginia said he and several friends intervened, and soon numerous additional assailants joined the attack. Phrases like, "Fuck you, faggots. You should all move back to San Francisco. You faggots are gonna die" apparently left no doubt as to the motive behind the assaults. Virginia said he called 911 twice before police arrived and the assailants fled. At least four gay men suffered injuries, including cuts, bruises, and black eyes. A total of four suspects were eventually apprehended; three of them were between the ages of 18 and 22. All of the victims, according to Virginia, have spoken positively about their interactions with the Sonoma County Sheriff's office.

Coincidentally, the county's "Hate Stops Here" program had planned an educational forum and social gathering on September 22. The incident last weekend, however, gives a new urgency to the event.

"These incidents only underscore the need for education and

awareness," said a statement from Ellen Horther, a bartender at the Russian River Eagle and organizer of the campaign.

Horther emphasized that the upcoming event will address hate on many different levels, an idea praised by those who believe that even the gay community could stand to be educated about their own prejudices as well.

"This week the hatred happened to be against gay men, but next week it could be against the migrant workers on the corner, or the woman leaving the bar by herself," Horther told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We want this to be a hate-free community for everyone."

The event will be a fun gathering with entertainers and speakers, said Horther, and will try to target people who need to be reached and "are, for whatever reason, out of the loop."

Details are still pending, but anyone interested in helping with or attending the "Hate Stops Here" event should call Horther at the Russian River Eagle at (707) 869-3400. ▼

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# Another tranny bill bites the dust

by Katie Szymanski

Once again, a relatively non-controversial bill for transgenderers that made simple administrative changes to existing law was vetoed by Governor Gray Davis in a move that critics are blaming on political games.

Existing law allows native Californians who have undergone sexual reassignment surgery to obtain new birth certificates. AB194, introduced this year by Assemblyman John Longville (D-Rialto), would have simplified this process for transsexuals who now live out of state. Davis vetoed Longville's AB1851 last year, which would have extended those rights to current Californians born out of state as well. But most LGBT advocates were under the impression that the governor — who last year said the bill was "unnecessary" and noted some procedural flaws — was merely confused about the need to change the process. After all, he wasn't changing existing law, just the manner by which people could access their rights. This year, however, Davis's "confusion" seems quite calculated. Vigorous education efforts and attempts at dialogue with the governor went into the fight for AB194, according to its supporters. But Davis again claimed the bill was "unnecessary," and sent it to the gallows on Tuesday, August 7.

"I'm deeply disappointed," Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "This was the most limited bill you could imagine, allowing people who no longer live in California to access their records without having to come all the way back here to use the statutory procedure. It was a procedural bill that would have made life less burdensome for transsexual people. It was a very

"There are those in our community who counsel that we are dependent on the governor and other Democrats. They say we should not push them too far for fear of angering them and ending up with nothing," said a Lambda Letters statement. "This strategy is leaving us with nothing anyway, or at best, a few crumbs."

AB194 had bipartisan support and provoked little reaction throughout the legislative process.

**"This was the most limited bill you could imagine..."**

minor bill, and yet very significant for the people affected.

"It's baffling, and senseless, and I can't see how it would have hurt him politically to sign this into law."

But politics was indeed the name of the game when AB194 passed over the desk of Davis, who is known for setting limits on the amount of LGBT legislation he passes he each year.

This latest move, along with the recent decision by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) to extend her transgender protection bill AB1649 to two-year status in order to avoid a veto, prompted much anger from Boyce Hinman of the lobbyist group Lambda Letters.

Davis's veto was a discouraging surprise, according to Kristen Wingate, legislative consultant to Longville.

"We fixed everything he [Davis] brought up in last year's veto message thinking he would sign it," Wingate told the *B.A.R.* "This year we got a one-paragraph veto message that basically said nothing."

Wingate said Longville has no plans to re-introduce the bill.

"We think that this veto pretty blatantly said that the governor is not willing to sign anything related to transsexual issues at all," said Wingate. "At this point, we're not pursuing it, and we don't know how much hope there is for a similar bill, unfortunately." ▼

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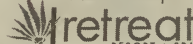
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## OPEN FORUM

## Politics isn't perfect

The world of politics—particularly in San Francisco—isn't perfect. City voters are often left with difficult choices because most candidates who seek public office here are Democrats and most support the LGBT community. The city has two well-established and active LGBT Democratic clubs whose members take their endorsement procedures seriously.

One of those clubs (the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club) held its endorsement meeting last week and took "no position" on the race for city treasurer; this despite the fact that incumbent Treasurer Susan Leal is a Latina lesbian who has, by virtually all accounts, done an excellent job of turning the treasurer's office around, making it more efficient and more responsive to citizens. Significantly, during Leal's tenure, she has increased revenue collection from businesses and put the city's financial services contract—long held by Bank of America—out for competitive bidding. In a progressive move, she initiated a socially responsible investment screen for city investments and, in so doing, kept a promise from her 1997 campaign.

In last week's voting by club members, Leal received 64 votes, or 53 percent, while the "no endorsement" category garnered 48 votes, or 47 percent. Carlos Petroni, a perennial candidate in San Francisco races who is Leal's only opposition in the November race, received a smattering of votes. Under Milk Club rules, a candidate must get 60 percent of the vote for an endorsement. The club's president has said they will revisit the Leal race next month, giving her a chance to make her case before another vote is taken.

One of the defining characteristics of the Milk Club is that it works to support qualified LGBT Democratic candidates. We would argue that Leal fits that bill and deserves to be supported.

But, apparently, some club members are concerned because Leal supported Mayor Willie Brown over Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano in the last mayoral election and, in their view, she is too closely aligned with "downtown business." While Leal may not

be a progressive like Harry Britt, whom the Milk Club enthusiastically supports in his Assembly bid, Leal has used her financial and administrative skills to pursue businesses when needed: just a couple of weeks ago she launched an investigation of local garment factories after it was learned that employees weren't getting paid.

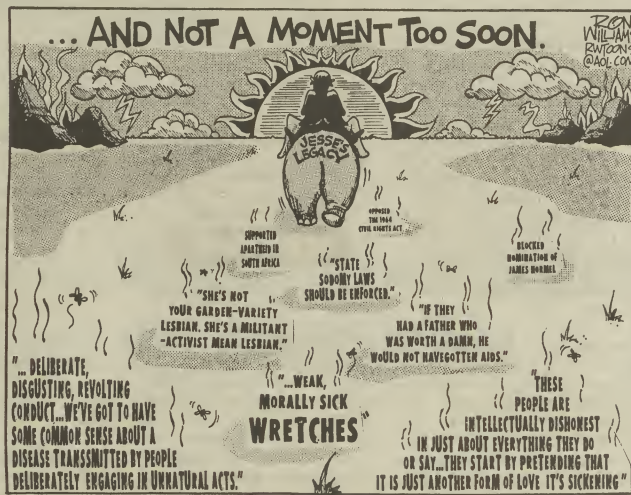
As we see it, some Milk Club members may be holding Leal to a different standard than, say, former Supervisor Britt. As it has been reported, Britt acknowledged to a former club president—and has never denied—that he voted for Republican Governor Pete Wilson many years ago rather than Democrat Dianne Feinstein, who appointed

him to the Board of Supervisors following Milk's murder. If past support or votes for a candidate are indeed an issue with Milk Club members, then perhaps they should be questioning Britt over his record, just as some seem to be doing with Leal.

Barring any unforeseen development, Leal should win re-election with or without the Milk Club's endorsement. But in the next few weeks, we hope Leal reaches out to club members in an effort to gain their support. And we urge Milk Club members to listen carefully to what she has to say. Leal is one of the few politicians who speaks candidly, and her accomplishments as an elected official should be given the appropriate consideration. ▼



Editorial



# Lambda explains position in Chicago same-sex benefits case

by Pat Logue

As principal author of Lambda's brief regarding the Chicago schools' same-sex-only domestic partner policy I was dismayed to read Dale Carpenter's recent column ["Lambda's loss, our gain," *Out Right*, July 12] attacking our alleged position in the case. Carpenter doesn't seem to have read Lambda's brief or to know the history behind it. But I do think he brings important attention to what our community's position should be on this issue, for selfish and unselfish reasons.

The Chicago schools, departing from the vast majority of their peers nationally, decided to offer domestic partner benefits only to same-sex couples. Lambda tried to sound an alarm that, while the intentions were appreciated and it might even feel good to benefit from discrimination for once, in the end such a policy would be challenged and come back to haunt our community. Our concern is not just a matter of fairness. After all, when courts are asked whether it is okay to treat people differently based on their sexual orientation and marital status, it's our community that has to live with the consequences.

Lambda tried over many months to use reason to stop the appeal of Milagros Irizarry, who had expressed no wish to hurt our community. We tried to persuade Irizarry's lawyer that appealing the initial decision upholding the Chicago schools' policy had so little chance of success and so great a chance to harm gay rights that it should be abandoned. Knowing both the legal landscape and the ideological makeup of much of the local federal appeals court, we knew the appeal could spell trouble and suggested alternatives. Ultimately Irizarry decided to pursue her appeal. For her it was

not a test case with long-term legal ramifications, but an effort to get medical coverage for her partner of 20 years.

Carpenter writes that Lambda was "determined to snatch defeat from the jaws of this litigation" and asked the appeals court to "hold the Chicago policy unconstitutional." That is simply not true. At no time did we ask the court to strike down the policy—the same policy we had defended against right-wing attack in an earlier suit. In fact, our main argument—which Carpenter overlooks entirely—was that Irizarry's appellate arguments should not even be entertained because they were never raised in the trial court. We were trying to give the court a legitimate way to dismiss the case (and uphold the policy) without reaching thorny constitutional issues. We hoped for a non-activist panel of judges that would exercise restraint. That was not to be.

Our second argument was for reversal of the lower court's decision, not the policy itself, because the decision pursued a fundamentally flawed version of constitutional analysis that is extremely harmful to gay rights. It is, in fact, the very same kind of analysis that led to the disingenuous decision upholding the Cincinnati anti-gay initiative several years ago. Under this flawed analysis the government can discriminate without having to justify it in any meaningful way. If government only has to show that it costs less to exclude gay and lesbian people from crucial rights, for example, our community is in serious trouble. Finally we explained that if the court agreed with Irizarry the proper fix was to extend the benefits to opposite sex couples, not strike down the policy.

Carpenter, mimicking Judge Posner, re-frames Lambda's brief as somehow anti-marriage, a strange claim after our years of leading the fight for equal marriage rights. Even more troubling is Carpenter's virtual parroting of much of the gratuitous sociological commentary in Judge Posner's opinion about the alleged supremacy of marriage for couples and children. When a court goes out of its way to endorse studies and garbage research about the supposed inferiority of "fatherless families," unmarried couples and parents—studies that our most ardent opponents have grossly manipulated against our families and relationships in many current battles—we're surprised to see gay commentators echoing this retrograde approach rather than expressing concern.

Carpenter should reveal Judge Posner's opinion for what it was—a call that would exercise restraint. That was not to be. Our second argument was for reversal of the lower court's decision, not the policy itself, because the decision pursued a fundamentally flawed version of constitutional analysis that is extremely harmful to gay rights. It is, in fact, the very same kind of analysis that led to the disingenuous decision upholding the Cincinnati anti-gay initiative several years ago. Under this flawed analysis the government can discriminate without having to justify it in any meaningful way. If government only has to show that it costs less to exclude gay and lesbian people from crucial rights, for example, our community is in serious trouble. Finally we explained that if the court agreed with Irizarry the proper fix was to extend the benefits to opposite sex couples, not strike down the policy.

Lambda remains strongly committed to the rights of lesbian and gay couples and their children and, apparently unlike Carpenter, will remain so even after marriage becomes a reality. ▼

Pat Logue is senior counsel of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's midwest regional office.

Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Kudos for coverage

I'm writing this note to commend Ed Walsh and the rest of the staff of the paper on the excellent coverage of the Adam Ezerski case. Instead of a routine rant about mistakes, permit me to say why I was impressed last week.

First, the front page story was fair, well-written and, as much as a weekly can ever be, right on time ["SF victim recalls early morning terror," August 23]. Second, kudos for getting an interview with Mr. Ezerski ["Ezerski talks to B.A.R."]. Despite the fact that he seems confused and disturbed, thanks for giving him the chance to speak for himself, since he does seem to identify as some sort of member of our community. Third, I was most impressed when I got to page 16 and found a news analysis piece which complemented the news stories and helped put this scandal into better perspective ["Criminologist offers theories on Ezerski"]. Together, all three pieces left me feeling well-informed and with a sense of great respect for Mr. Walsh's journalistic talent and integrity.

Keep raising that "B.A.R." for yourselves and for our other community papers!

Matthew Denckla  
San Francisco

## Britt's a candidate, not a legend

Harry Britt is not a legend, he is a candidate for the Assembly that deserves scrutiny and the LGBT community deserves to know his record.

I'm sure Britt would love to step into this race as the unquestioned successor to Harvey Milk and hope that no one will look into his own record. This would give him the dual benefit of having a story that is enticing while having a record that very few people remember. But he is running for office and his own actions as a supervisor and political activist matter much more than the fact that he replaced Harvey Milk.

Unfortunately, Britt supporters have been keeping a double standard of treatment between Leno and Britt. When former Milk Club President Bob Dockendorff stated (and Harry Britt has never publicly denied) that Britt voted for Republican Pete Wilson for governor, and he endorsed conservative John Molinari for mayor, Britt supporters labeled this "attacking a political hero."

I personally would be very interested to know why the "progressive" Harry Britt would support an anti-immigrant, anti-Latino, anti-education, and homophobic Governor Pete Wilson. This is not a non-issue - if Bob Dockendorff and Art Agnos were lying, and Britt didn't vote for Wilson, then he should issue a public statement refuting Dockendorff's statement. But Britt has never done that.

While Britt supporters whine about Britt's record being made public and substantiated with documentation (the *Sentinel* piece that documented Britt's support of Wilson and Molinari was distributed to the press recently), Britt and his supporters have been relentless in their distortion and attacks against Leno. Britt has disparaged Mark's character, his work on behalf of transgender health benefits, medical cannabis, and affordable housing and falsely accused him of hiring someone to launder money for his campaign. Britt supporters have distorted Mark's record claiming Mark was silent when Joe O'Donoghue distributed a homophobic ad against Tom Ammiano - when Mark issued a public statement decrying the ad.

The truth is that Britt continues to demean Mark while his supporters have characterized this as "fighting, give 'em hell, Harry." Meanwhile Britt is supposed to be treated with the reverence of an old war hero.

Mark built a career out of his own hard work, not on the reputation of anyone but himself. Just because Harry Britt followed Harvey Milk does not make him an effective legislator, and Harry's dubious support of conservative candidates is valuable information for the community to make its decision.

Victor Torres  
San Francisco

## Election follies begin

Lemme get this right. Jerry Threet, prez of the Milk Demo Club, is not a Demo. Harry Britt is outraged at Mark Leno 'cause Leno revealed that Britt voted against Agnos for mayor, and against Feinstein for governor. Leno calls himself a progressive, and hires Robert Barnes as his campaign manager.

Lucky we all have a sense of humor, isn't it?

Arthur Evans  
San Francisco

## A politician, not a saint

The hand-ringing letters complaining about people saying nasty things about poor Harry Britt are ridiculous. Harry spent more than a decade as a politician not as a saint. During those years, he picked up enemies. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is supporting Supervisor Leno for the state Assembly not only because she thinks he is a man of integrity, but

also because Harry Britt continuously called her an "air headed housewife" during their congressional race. Former Mayor Art Agnos is supporting Supervisor Leno not only because he thinks he is a great problem-solver, but also because Harry Britt made his life miserable as mayor and was partly responsible for his defeat. This is called "payback" and is endemic to San Francisco politics. Stop the childish caterwauling and get on with the campaign.

James W. Haas  
San Francisco

## Old-fashioned campaign needed

I am writing in response to last week's Guest Opinion, "Keep the campaign positive" by Debra Walker, Tommi Avicelli Mecca, Esperanza Macias, Robert Haaland, Denise D'Anne, and Janice Winchester. I have met each of these individuals, appreciate their commitment to the LGBT community, and respect their support for Harry Britt. As a matter of personal disclosure, I moved to San Francisco two years ago, joined both the Alice and Milk clubs, respect Harry Britt's contributions to our community very much, and support Mark Leno for the Assembly because I have personally observed his strong skills as a legislator.

Walker, et. al. wrote that the Milk Club PAC "voted that we deplore negative campaigns based on lies and innuendo." I agree and so do most voters. But when you make these statements you need to tell voters what the "lies and innuendo" are and use facts to convey the truth. Whatever happened to facts in politics? True, the writers say that since "we believe the LGBT community has not been given many significant facts, we would like to introduce you to the real Harry Britt." They then proceed to tell voters what Britt accomplished in the 1980s as a member of the Board of Supervisors. It is an impressive record. But voters want to know what Britt's goals are for the future of the state of California if he is elected to the Assembly. As I understand it, one of Harry Britt's goals is to move the Democratic Party to the left - but we're voting for an assemblymember, not the next state chair of the Democratic Party.

Likewise, the campaign of Mark Leno needs to focus on the issues and the facts. Leno has also compiled an impressive record on the Board of Supervisors. But voters want to hear about Leno's goals for the future of the state of California. Energy independence, handgun control, privacy rights, civil unions, transgender civil rights, environmental protection, etc. are issues that I think voters in San Francisco want to hear about. So let's stop the emotion-based posturing coming from all sides and have an old-fashioned political campaign based on issues and facts.

Rich Kowalewski  
San Francisco

## Dismay over story

It was with some dismay that I read the cover story "Statistical risk of oral HIV transmission estimated at zero" (August 16), as the findings of the UCSF study described in this article are contrary to my own experience. Almost three years ago, I tested positive for HIV having engaged in no risky sexual activity other than receptive oral sex. No one ever even came in my mouth. It appears that there may have been factors in my case that made my infection easier: the man who infected me did not know he was positive until I notified him that I had tested positive. Since he never thought he was at risk, he had never gotten tested until then. He had only practiced insertive anal sex with condoms and oral sex. In the absence of treatment, since he didn't know about his own infection, his viral load had probably skyrocketed to a level that made it that much easier for me to get infected from getting his precum in my mouth.

While it can be more difficult to draw reliable conclusions from anecdotal evidence than from a controlled study, I know of at least two other people with HIV who are similarly convinced that they could have only been infected as a result of receptive oral sex. Although the authors of the UCSF study are careful to point out that oral sex is by no means risk-free, their findings as well as the headline of the article, would seem to strongly suggest otherwise. Even if the risk of infection approaches zero, as the UCSF study concludes, it stands to reason that the risk could increase to a significant level if oral sex is performed on multiple partners. Not to mention that the risk can be compounded, as it was in my case, if one of those partners, believing that he is not at risk, never gets tested so that his infection can be caught at an early stage.

It does seem to be the case that unprotected receptive oral sex is less risky for contracting AIDS than unprotected anal sex. Rates of HIV infection would probably decrease if more queer men substituted oral sex for anal sex. But the issue is complex, and the risk of infection depends on more factors than simply the type of sex that two men are having. An honest dis-

next page ►

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## Mailstrom

◀ previous page

cussion about the safety of receptive oral sex deserves much more than a simplistic headline on the front page.

Benjamin Geko  
San Francisco

## Staffer thanks Pride

I want to give a commendation to a group of people that touched my life for about three weeks. I was hired as a part-time clerical assistant for LGBT Pride 2001. One thing I know now is that it takes a hell of a job to put on the Pride Parade. The people who I met were great to me, including Teddy Witherington, the executive director; Regina Bauer, executive assistant; Brittany Weber, event manager; and Jamie Muntner, production and marketing assistant. These people gave me the experience of working behind the scenes, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. If people only knew what kind of work is done at the Pride office they would be amazed. And I want to recognize the hard work of the board of directors of the Pride Committee, especially the president, Cecilia Chung, who is a role model to the transgender community. What a wonderful ride you have given me. And I just hope next year is the year of the transgender.

Felicia A. Elizondo  
San Francisco

## Communities must work together

We must confront and eradicate homelessness. Homeless people deserve real help in reconstructing their lives. And the rest of us, too often victimized by people out of control, deserve a voice and a bill of rights, too. Our communities should work together, undivided, to seek long-term, focused solutions that work for everyone, not just quick fixes that serve political aspirations.

I've lived in SOMA for almost 10 years and I know some of the street folks pretty well. Many have been here almost as long as I have. Some work collecting and selling recyclables and other odd jobs. Many commit crimes and use our street as their toilet. They damage and steal our property. One crazed man lived on the sidewalk in front of my house for a year. He was a clear threat to himself and others. We called the police, the fire department, and many outreach organizations to get him help. Nobody could do anything because he simply did not want it. Being arrested for assault and selling drugs got him a shower and a clean set of clothes. He's back out there right now. Yesterday a homeless man tried to break into my home by scaling the patio wall. He was hurt when he fell backwards and head first off the wall and onto the cement. My fence and other property was damaged. Another man broke the window of my new car last year. He was hiding in the back when I got there. He cut himself on the broken glass as he fled.

The costs to fix these intruders' injuries and repair and replace our property is borne by you and me. And they are invisible to those who argue that homeless people are innocent victims of adversity, hardship, and homeless phobes.

A compassionate society must seek real solutions to the tragedy of homelessness: structured homes, substance abuse treatment, and life management training. Allowing people to live in the street and endanger the rest of us is not the solution: it's part of the problem.

Dan Soliliday  
San Francisco

## SF solar initiatives

Wayne Friday's column mentioned Supervisor Mark Leno's proposed \$100 million solar bond (Proposition B) to build solar power on government buildings [Our Man Friday, August 16], but neglected to mention another, larger solar initiative put on the ballot by board President Tom Ammiano (Proposition H), which would create the authority for the city to build Ammiano's proposed 50 megawatts of solar panels on homes, businesses, and government buildings throughout the city. For those who do not know what 50 megawatt means, it will build about 100 football fields of solar panels on 200 acres of rooftops, on about 5,000 buildings, provide 5-10 percent of the city's combined power needs, and be six times larger than the world's largest solar utility. It will nearly match the nation's entire solar power output of 80 megawatts in San Francisco alone. Perhaps most importantly, Proposition H will offer San Francisco residents and businesses some recourse in the ongoing energy crisis: long term energy security and sustainability. B is big. H is huge. Vote Yes on H (and B).

Paul Fenn, Local Power  
Oakland, California

## Thoughtful tribute

I thank John Karr for his elegant and thoughtful tribute to actor Randy Wendelin, a.k.a. Steve Regis

["Big-time butch," August 16]. I was just beginning to know Randy the day before he died of a heart attack at age 46. Although he was getting older like all of us; he bore the dual burdens of old age and poor health with grace and majesty. He deserved the glowing tribute from John and his memorial service on Monday, September 17 at 7 p.m. at Theater Rhinoceros will be an opportunity for those of us who did not know him really well to learn about the other aspects of this remarkable man.

John Cailleau  
San Francisco

## Daddy's Boy event a success

Last Friday night's fundraiser at Daddy's bar in San Francisco was a fun-filled event! Five boys were auctioned off for "dinner dates" at Harvey's SOMA restaurant by Lenny Broberg. There was great fun had with these five auction items! Entertainment was furnished by Donna Sachet and Solomon Rose and there was a world premiere performance of a new act by Terry, Andrew, and Jack.

Lots of auction items raised more funds. Time did not permit auctioning of the Cirby artwork. The 50/50 raffle gave the winning ticket holder \$155 in cash, and the matching amount was added to the night's proceeds.

The final tally came to \$1,001 in cash plus \$695 in credit cards for a total raised of \$1,696. This total will be distributed with \$848 to AEF and \$848 to the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago.

In addition, I am making a 10 percent matching gift of the total amount raised at the event to both Positive Resource Center (\$169.60) and to the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California (\$169.60).

Thus, the total raised for charity Friday night came to \$2,035.20.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the event, and thanks to everyone who came to Daddy's bar that night to be part of the festivities.

And, don't forget this Sunday, September 2. The contest for S.F. Leather Daddy's Boy XIX to succeed me will be held at the Eagle Tavern from 3-6 p.m. Information for that event can be found at [www.sfbob.com](http://www.sfbob.com).

Bob Dern  
S.F. Leather Daddy's Boy XVIII  
San Francisco

## If the tables had been turned

If the citizens of San Francisco had voted to limit tenancies-in-common last year and then, just a few months later, the Board of Supervisors had overturned that decision, tenants rights activists would have been outraged and would have demanded the supervisors' resignations. Instead, since the supervisors' actual decision supported the limits that tenants rights activists were unable to get through the voting process, Robert Haaland and Tommi Avicoli Mecca praise the supervisors for their courage and integrity. Unlike Haaland and Mecca, many of us will never use the words "courage" and "integrity" in describing the current "Board of Buffoons." Hopefully after the next election we can use the term "unemployed" to describe them.

William Hanrahan  
San Francisco

## Frameline says thanks

I am writing to thank the City and County of San Francisco and Supervisor Mark Leno, chair of the Finance Committee, for the support in the amount of \$100,000 for the acquisition of a new building for the Ninth Street Media Consortium.

The consortium consists of the following local and national media arts organizations: Frameline, presenters of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival; the Film Arts Foundation; the National Asian American Telecommunications Association; the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival; Cine Action; and the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture.

Through the past 20 years, these six groups have come to form a highly unique partnership by sharing rented space together in a South of Market office building. We've weathered many storms during that time: cultural wars and dot-com explosions that threatened our very existence. Yet through it all we have survived and gone on to build a multi-purpose media arts center attracting neophyte and established filmmakers alike, who partake of the broad reaching services our diverse organizations collectively offer.

Presently, we are in the first stages of a capital campaign to purchase a new home of our own at 145 9th Street, and the consortium has just been awarded an extremely generous \$100,000 grant from the city. On behalf of all of us at the consortium, we are grateful to the city and our supervisors for their support and commitment to this future home for San Francisco's independent media arts community.

Michael Lumpkin, Executive Director  
Frameline

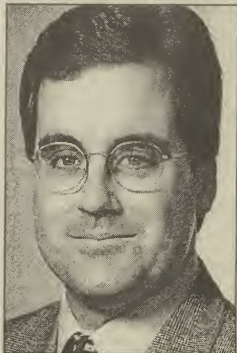


## POLITICS

# S.F. Democrats back Herrera; Republicans endorse Lazarus

by Wayne Friday

Political party lines were sharply drawn in San Francisco's hotly contested race for city attorney in the November 6 election last week when then San Francisco Democratic Party voted overwhelmingly to endorse **Dennis Herrera**, from a field of four candidates, to succeed retiring City Attorney **Louise Renne**. Herrera, a partner in a maritime law firm, already has been endorsed by Renne.



Candidate Dennis Herrera

Herrera's endorsement was clinched when he received significant support from within the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee's reform faction. Following the endorsement of the official SFDCCC, state Democratic Party chair **Art Torres**, a former state senator and now a San Francisco resident, also announced his "enthusiastic" endorsement of Herrera.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Republican Party County Central Committee voted 17-2 to endorse attorney **Jim Lazarus** for city attorney; Lazarus, who told the Republicans "I will carry your endorsement proudly," received 17 committee votes to two for attorney **Neil Eisenberg**, who also sought the GOP endorsement.

In addition to Herrera, Lazarus, and Eisenberg, land use attorney **Steve Williams** is also on the November ballot. With four candidates in the November race to succeed Renne, it is unlikely that any one candidate will win the election outright - 50 percent plus 1 vote is needed - and most observers feel that Herrera and Lazarus are likely to face each other in a December runoff in what would likely be a classic progressive versus conservative, Democrat versus Republican clash.

Herrera has agreed to abide by the voter-approved campaign reform spending limit of \$175,000 while Lazarus has already announced that he intends to exceed that cap and possibly spend as much as \$450,000 to win the race.

## Politics and people

It was pretty unanimous from both his diehard supporters (a group growing thinner by the day) and his critics that the well-planned, overly-rehearsed media blitz Modesto-area Congressman **Gary Condit** put on last week

failed miserably, leaving Condit's constituents shaking their heads. In what was meant to be an act of political redemption, the ABC News interview with correspondent **Connie Chung** turned out to be an exercise in self-destruction. While Democrats from Washington obviously want to keep Condit's seat in the 2002 general election, they are making it more and more obvious they don't want Condit's name on the ticket and top Democrats from House Minority Leader **Dick Gephardt** (D-Missouri) on down are said to be quietly urging him not to run again, and to make his intentions known soon so that the party can groom a credible candidate for the seat.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the "Summer of Chandra" continues as the network talking heads can't let it alone; they seem not to have had as much fun playing detective or political analyst since the heady days of **Bill Clinton** and **Monica Lewinsky**.

He is probably the only politician (of either party) to think so, but there was **George W. Bush** last week trying desperately to spin the idea that there is actually a benefit to the government's fast-dwindling surplus, declaring that it will create "a fiscal straight-jacket for Congress" (sic). For the first half of this year, Bush made the tax cut he promised during the campaign his focus. Well, most taxpayers have received their refund check, spent it, and will certainly have forgotten about it by the November 2002 elections. Democratic congressional leaders (as well as some moderate Republicans) are now accusing Bush of squandering this year's surplus - it shrank by an estimated \$123 billion in only four months - thanks to his highly-touted \$300 tax refunds, and now even some GOP strategists are worried that Democrats will successfully use the shrunken surplus as a campaign issue and as a simple matter of politics, the Democrats offensive has Republican campaign strategists increasingly worried.

Seven months after Bill Clinton's exit from the White House turned into a personal and political debacle, close friends and aides of the former president say that he is "aching" to get back on the political trail and help the Democratic Party regain control of the House, hoping as well, to pick up a couple of U.S. Senate seats. Although Clinton does not plan to directly challenge the Bush administration, aides say that he is increasingly eager for an important public role and Democratic congressional candidates, ever eager for help in raising campaign funds, are said to be sending in requests for Clinton's help to his Harlem office by the hundreds. Seemingly at personal peace, sans his Secret Service detail, at home in his Westchester County house while his Senator-wife spends most of her time in D.C., Clinton is said to actually be "chomping at

the bit" to get out among voters, earning not only money for his family but for the party that made him president and, at 54, made him one of the country's youngest ex-presidents. Clinton's personal popularity seems to have risen so quickly that all four Democratic candidates for mayor of New York City in next month's primary have sought an endorsement (he hasn't endorsed) or have reportedly maneuvered to at least get a photo taken with the guy, even though he is not a NYC registered voter.

Speaking of which, our *Bay Area Reporter* readers (Yep, the B.A.R. is available in numerous NYC outlets) in the Big Apple should be considering **Mark Green** as their next mayor as they go to vote in September.

Green, a true progressive, is by far the best of the lot and finally, a Democratic mayor of the nation's largest city after eight years of Republican **Rudy Giuliani**. While the other NYC mayoral candidates have tried to come off sounding like Giuliani (sometimes a good mayor, incidentally), Green says: "Just as Bill Clinton and **Tony Blair** learned from **Ronald Reagan** but remained center-left leaders, I will keep the best of Giuliani's policies and go beyond him; I'm a proud progressive Democrat on issues like social justice, choice, and gay rights." Green should be the obvious choice of all gay and lesbian voters in New York City.

Incidentally, remember **Bernie Goetz**, the infamous subway vigilante who gained national notoriety a few years ago when he gunned down four African American teenagers for demanding \$5 from him in a subway? Well, the 53-year-old former nuclear engineer is also running for NYC mayor and, of course, as an admirer of Rudy Giuliani; Goetz, however, gives Giuliani only so much credit for making New York streets safer. "AIDS has helped," Goetz says. "The epidemic has been a tremendous help in getting rid of the [worst] elements of society." Citizen Goetz, incidentally, is a lifelong bachelor who shares a Greenwich Village apartment with pet squirrels. (No, don't even ask, I have no idea.)

Democratic candidates galore: While former President Clinton kicks back in Chappaqua with Best Dog **Buddy**, planning his future, and making regular trips to his Harlem office, many of his former Cabinet members and White House aides are making political plans of their own. Former Commerce Secretary **William Daley** plans to run next year for governor of Illinois (his brother is mayor of Chicago); former Agriculture Secretary **Dan Glickman** plans a U.S. Senate run in Kansas (that state hasn't elected a Democratic U.S. Senator since 1932); former Attorney General **Janet Reno** is still "thinking" of running against **Jeb Bush** for governor of Florida; and one of Clinton's top

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# Support your local community center

by Paula Martinac

Delivery of social services to the queer community has become even more important since "faith-based initiatives" rose to the top of George W. Bush's agenda. Too many churches and religious ministries are either inimical to homosexuality or believe it's something people can choose to walk away from. At gay community centers, however, those who need AIDS treatment or alcohol counseling can receive it without worrying about passing a morality test.

There's been an explosion of new gay community centers in the last decade, even though we don't hear as much about them as we do about national groups like the Human Rights Campaign, with their large staffs and multimillion-dollar budgets. That's because the work community centers do is often not very flashy. Providing space for lesbian and gay AA groups to meet or housing a queer lending library is hardly as headline-grabbing as hosting black-tie dinners filled with Washington luminaries.

Among the 100-plus centers, there are some glitzy exceptions. The Los Angeles center, the largest and oldest of our community centers, is famous for its pricey, celebrity-filled soirees. San Francisco's first lesbian and gay community center, due to open in fall 2001, is currently sporting a \$16-million price tag, and Chicago's Horizon Inc. has cut a \$2.74-million deal with the city to purchase a site for a new center there. New York's center just completed a \$6 million renovation. The budgets of several of our community centers easily compete with those of our major national organizations, like HRC, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Although the large centers are funded primarily by middle- and upper-class donors, their services tend to benefit the members of our community who are most likely to need them and least able to afford them. In that way, they're similar to the settlement houses that sprouted up in this country in the late



19th and early 20th centuries and looked out for those with little access to money or power.

Today, that often means urban queer youth, who are greatly at risk for alcohol and drug abuse, homelessness, suicide, prostitution, and HIV. When I was raising money for New York's gay community center in the mid-1990s, a comment I frequently heard as donors drew out their checkbooks was, "I wish there had been a place like this when I was young."

It's not just the big centers that are making strides in this area. In cities from Phoenix to Fort Lauderdale, lesbian and gay centers with budgets of \$200,000 or \$300,000 offer youth support, alcohol intervention, gender identity programs, and AIDS services. Across the country, many queers have community centers to thank for literally saving their lives.

But in addition to offering social services, many lesbian and gay centers also help foster cultural community. With more and more feminist and gay bookstores closing their doors, community centers have become important sites for maintaining our cultural and intellectual life. Many centers now house lending and research libraries, host readings and film series, and provide space for book discussion groups. Others turn their walls over to local queer artists for exhibits that would never see the light of day if not housed in a gay space.

In addition, community cen-

ters help build our movement by providing affordable meeting space for queer groups and organizations. That may sound insignificant, but only 40 years ago lesbian and gay groups had to convene secretly in private homes. The advent of community centers has made it possible for an enormous amount of political organizing to take place and for many people to become involved in the movement quickly. Imagine, for example, how much more slowly AIDS activism would have grown if ACT UP had gotten its start in Larry Kramer's living room and not in the auditorium of New York's lesbian and gay community center.

But what I like most about our community centers is that they strive to create a physical "home" for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. That's no small thing, since we often experience everything from lack of understanding to open hostility from our own families. Sometimes we're even evicted from our homes or can't find a place to live simply because we're queer. As the community center movement expands and the need for social services increases, it's exciting to see our "homes" cropping up in places that would never have tolerated their presence even 10 years ago, like East Los Angeles and the outer boroughs of New York City.

You can find the community center nearest you through the National Directory of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Centers, available online at [www.gaycenter.org](http://www.gaycenter.org). Visit one soon or make a donation—it's an investment in the future of the queer community. ▼

## St. James turns two



The St. James Infirmary, a multi-service clinic for sex workers, celebrated its second anniversary Saturday, August 25 with a "Rock 'n Blues Barbecue Bash" at the Lost City Club in Brisbane. Joining in the fun were, from left, Dawn Passar, Johanna Breyer, Chuck Cloniger (back), Margo St. James, Cat McLean, and Deb Cohan. The clinic, located at 356 Seventh Street in San Francisco, has drop-in hours on Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 4-7 p.m.



# The Radical Faeries

by Rawley Grau

August 31, 1979 (22 years ago this week): The Radical Faeries stage their first major gathering at a retreat center in the Arizona desert.

Every year, large groups of gay men gather in remote, rural areas seeking to commune with nature and explore the spiritual significance of being gay. Many of them dress in bizarre, fanciful drag – frilly dresses and flowered bonnets contrasting with beards and hairy chests – while others wear nothing at all, as they dance around a bonfire, invoking ancient gods and goddesses.

They call themselves Radical Faeries, and they have been holding such gatherings for over 20 years.

At first glance, the Faeries seem to be holdovers from the counterculture of the 1960s – though with a light-hearted camp sensibility that is unmistakably queer. But their central concern is serious: they believe gay people are a special tribe with a unique role to play in the evolution of human consciousness.

The roots of the Radical Faerie movement date to the mid-1970s, when a number of gay men became frustrated with the urban gay community. They criticized the banality of a culture based in bars and bathhouses and saw the rise of the “clone” look – mustache, flannel shirt, and tight Levis – as pandering to heterosexual ideas of masculinity.

Hoping to cultivate a community based on “gay values,” some men left the cities to establish rural gay farming communes. In 1974, one of these groups launched *RFD: A Magazine for Country Faggots*, where along with informative articles about farming, readers could find idealistic meditations about bonding with nature.

Meanwhile, back in San Francisco, the gay mystic Arthur Evans was talking about fairies. In a series of lectures in 1976, he theorized that the fairies of folklore were in fact allusions to gay male goddess-worshippers suppressed by the new Christian authorities. “Their greatest ‘crime’ was that they experienced the highest manifestations of the divine in free practice of sexuality,” Evans wrote in *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture* (1978).

Fairies were also on the mind of Harry Hay, the pioneering activist who in 1950 had founded the first major U.S. gay rights group. In 1970, he and his partner, John Burnside, had moved from Los Angeles to northern New Mexico. It was around that time

that Hay began using the word “fairy” – the slur bullies had used against him as a child – to describe the peculiar “otherness” of gays, the quality of being neither masculine nor feminine. “Only now that I’m grown up and have become a proper queer, I gussy up the spelling to make it f-a-e-r-i-e,” he later explained.

Hay concluded that because of their status as “faeries,” gays were uniquely endowed with a “subject-subject” mode of thinking, able to relate to both people and things not as objects to be consumed or manipulated but rather as “another self to be respected.” Gayness, he argued, was a necessary factor in human evolution, and gay people belonged to a special, separate “tribe.” Rather than assimilate into heterosexual society, they were called to heal it.

In 1978, Hay and Burnside became friends with two other men who thought along similar lines: Don Kilhefner, a 39-year-old activist from Los Angeles, and Mitch Walker, in his mid-20s, who was studying Jungian psychology at Berkeley. Together, the four men set about planning the first “spiritual conference for Radical Faeries,” as it was described on their flier.

Over 200 men came to that first Faerie gathering, which took place over Labor Day weekend in 1979, at a Buddhist retreat center in the Arizona desert. As they grew comfortable with one another, they began to shed their inhibitions, as well as their clothes, donning feathers, bells, beads, and body paint. At “heart circles,” a wooden talisman was passed from person to person, and each shared his feelings about being gay. In one unplanned event, a group of about 50 men began covering each other in mud, chanting, and dancing. “It evoked a sense of timelessness that I sometimes feel during especially satisfying lovemaking, that I am in touch with something thousands and thousands of years old,” one participant later recalled.

Inspired by the success of the first gathering, a second was held a year later in a mountain meadow above Boulder, Colorado. Here the culture developed further, with men adopting new Faerie names, such as Oak Leaf, Marvelous Persimmon, and Ultra Violet Nova.

Since that time, several Radical Faerie “sanctuaries” have been established, from Oregon to Ontario, where Faeries live off the land, host gatherings, and welcome visitors. Faerie circles can be found throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in Europe and Australia; there is even a listing for a Faerie circle in

Estonia.

As with any loosely organized group, there have been problems. In the early 1980s, for example, Kilhefner and Walker left the Faeries over what they considered Hay’s domineering leadership style. And on another level, some complain that gatherings have become more about style – who is wearing the most stunning Faerie outfit – than spiritual revelation.

Nevertheless, as gays and lesbians become more deeply enmeshed in mainstream consumer culture, the Faeries’ vision of an enlightened tribe, close to nature and endowed with special gifts for humanity, continues to offer an intriguing alternative model. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at [GayNestor@aol.com](mailto:GayNestor@aol.com).

## Suggested reading

Pickett, Keri, 2000. *Faeries: Visions, Voices, and Pretty Dresses*. New York: Aperture.

Thompson, Mark, ed., 1987. *Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning*. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

Timmons, Stuart, 1990. *The Trouble with Harry Hay: Founder of the Modern Gay Movement*. Boston: Alyson Publications.

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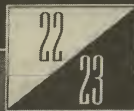
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## Dance permit

◀ page 2

there,” Daly said of the language in the dance hall keeper’s permit application.

“We agree that that’s antiquated language,” said Coggan. “That’s something we don’t rely on. If it were to be removed, we’d have no objection.”

“I think there’s a public policy issue with police giving out the same permits they are charged to enforce,” said Daly. “And it’s old language. Having the chief of police judging people’s moral char-

acter doesn’t fit San Francisco in 2001, maybe some other city.”

The chief of police may still revoke a venue’s dance permit on his own authority.

“Hey Chris, I’m dancing,” hooted one of the revelers as the music swelled from the boom-box in the corner of the office. “Do we need a permit?”

While there was no consensus among those within earshot, it’s likely the answer is still yes. ▼

Full disclosure: The writer volunteers in the office of Supervisor Leno.



# Redefining the gay agenda

by Bob Roehr

Ideas matter. Ideas still drive what becomes politics," Rich Tafel told the opening session of a conference sponsored by the Liberty Education Forum, in Chicago last month. He said the LEF would focus on "ideas that can be implemented into policy."

The Liberty Education Forum is the think tank of Log Cabin Republicans. "Our mission is to work toward achieving individual freedom and fairness for gay Americans by applying the principles of individual rights, individual responsibilities, free markets and limited government," said Bob Kabel, chairman of the forum.

The conference marked a heightened profile for the organization with an enhanced presence online. The opening panel discussion was entitled "Redefining the Gay Agenda."

Political columnist Hastings Wyman said that about 25 percent of gays and lesbians voted for George W. Bush, despite the fact that "Al Gore really endorsed most of what has become known as the gay agenda," while "Bush promised not to hit us." It suggested to him that much of the "agenda" is "not terribly relevant to the average gay person." He thinks, "There is a lot of malleability in what gay voters consider important."

Wyman has seen "an amazing shift in the way gay issues are handled in Washington." He used examples of the nomination of John

Ascroft to be attorney general and the faith-based initiative. In both cases "the gay side theoretically lost," but gay concerns were at the core of the public debate and those holding anti-gay positions were perceived to be on the defensive.

## The honorable ...

"I have a very simple political philosophy," said Washington, D.C. City Council member David Catania. "Those of us who have been raging against big government, we lost that battle." Within that reality he favors "pushing as much of that power onto individuals rather than the government."

Catania believes the future of the gay community lays in our understanding "that we each can make a difference." He spoke of his advocacy for keeping open the city's only public hospital. It included work with a regional group of conservative black Baptist ministers.

At a recent meeting, one of the ministers from the suburbs began a homophobic tirade. His colleagues from D.C. who had worked with the councilman rose and cut him off. "We are not going to have that here," they said. Catania called it "a transforming moment" that came from "diligent work in building relationships."

"I'm often accused of having a gay agenda, and I always say I don't have a gay agenda," said Arizona state Representative Steve May. But once in a House hearing, he flippantly replied, "My gay agenda is to work out in the

morning and drink martinis in the afternoon."

Family is most important to May. "The government has to recognize our family structure. Most of us as individuals are not discriminated against in our daily lives," but our relationships are discriminated against. "We will not have equal opportunity in this country as long as our families are not recognized."

That concept resonates with his colleagues on the far right and he has been able to attach amendments that "recognize members of the same household in the same way the law recognizes marital relationships." He has notched successes in insurance discrimination, victims' rights, and domestic violence legislation. Often these quiet activities do not gather media attention but they do help to create the legal web of protection that gay relationships need.

"We are second-class citizens in our own country" as long as the anti-gay military policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" exists, said May, a veteran who fought that policy. May believes it saps resources from a strong national defense and "denies equal opportunity" to young gay Americans. "Our problem is that we don't have an advocate in Congress. We need someone like [Arizona Senator] John McCain who would be willing to risk some political capital to make a change."

## Youth

"Many of my colleagues in the field of lesbian and gay work in

general can't find their ways to political tables and say youth," said Verna Eggleston, director of the Hettrick-Martin Institute in New York City. She attributed it to the continued fear of being labeled a pedophile.

The issue is growing as gay and lesbian youth acknowledge their sexual orientation at increasingly younger ages. They come "without rights and without instruction, where they cannot access any goods or services without the advocacy of an adult."

Eggleston argued with the local gay pride committee, "The young people must lead the parade, in front of the pumps and G-strings, because as folks look in and watch, the perception is that this is where our community is taking 12-year-olds."

She works strategically with those who evaluate gay households and households where gay youth may be placed. She made the case that more attention should be paid to family court judges where basic decisions are made about the legitimacy of our families.

In Arizona, some school superintendents were attempting to deny meeting space to gay-straight alliances. May filed a civil rights complaint with the state attorney general's office, "which got the attention of the schools' leadership and forced them to change their policy."

Catania knows that family and societal pressures leave gay youth disproportionately vulnerable to becoming substance abusers.



Washington, D.C. City Council member David Catania

When he shook up D.C.'s dysfunctional treatment program, introducing vouchers, he made sure to "carve out gay and lesbian treatment options for our youth."

## A place at the table

Sometimes "the only way to get people's attention is to hit the streets and make a fuss," said Catania. But he has found that once you are sitting at the table and have built a relationship, often it is relatively easy to get things done. At his suggestion the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority initiated domestic partner benefits for its 10,000 employees.

The Salvation Army has one of the "finest substance abuse treatment options in the city" and Catania has worked closely with them as chair of the committee that oversees \$1.5 billion in federal grants in D.C. When the recent incident broke involving the Salvation Army and the Bush administration, he called the local major

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# Army's comic book outlines DADT for service personnel

by Dennis Conkin

Members of the United States Army — from grunts to generals — now have a clear and compete reference guide to the military's confusing anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" homosexual conduct policy.

It's a comic book.

Entitled "Dignity And Respect: A Training Guide To The Military Policy Definition Of Homosexual Conduct," the guide also details the rights of soldiers who are under investigation, the investigation process, and related topics such as the role of the base commander in the investigation process, and a section that spells out what constitutes harassment.

The publication is drawing unlikely praise from the Service-members Legal Defense Network, the nation's independent legal aid and watchdog organization that assists military personnel who have been targets of harassment or who are facing discharge related to sexual orientation issues.

In a press statement, SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn said the training manual was written in "clear and comprehensive language" and urged other branches of the armed forces to follow the Army's lead and provide similar publications to their members.

"While we don't agree with current policy, as long as Congress makes it the law of the land, soldiers should know what the rules are and commanders should stop asking, pursuing, and harassing," Osburn said.

The policy was spelled out in comic book format, according to



SLDN's C. Dixon Osburn

SLDN spokesman Steve Ralls, to draw the interest and attention of at-risk young service members who bear the brunt of the anti-gay legacy of the Clinton administration.

"The majority of the service members who are discharged under the policy are between 18 and 25 years old," Ralls told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Ralls also said the Army comic book was racially and ethnically diverse and did not stereotype gays and lesbians.

SLDN, a nonprofit group, has served an estimated 3,000 service members facing discharge or needing legal assistance because of sexual orientation issues in its seven years of operation.

The comic's release dovetails with a report by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities at the University of California at Santa Barbara detailing several recent surveys and academic findings.

The surveys show for the first time that more than half of Americans now believe that lesbians

and gays should be allowed to openly serve in the military.

In one study by University of Chicago Professor John Williams and University of California, Los Angeles Professor Laura Miller, 56 percent of the general public responded affirmatively to a survey asking if they thought gays and lesbian should be allowed to serve openly in the military.

All previous polls indicated the majority of Americans showed support for lesbians and gays in the military but only under DADT policies.

In other studies noted by CSSM, there are signs of further decline in anti-gay military policies, with a drop in the percentage of polled United States Navy officers who felt uncomfortable around gays from nearly 58 percent to 34 percent. The percentage of Army men opposed to gay service members has dropped nearly in half from 67 percent to 37 percent.

National election survey polling data from 2000 that was analyzed for the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force by Alan Yang, a Columbia University political scientist, show attitude changes among Republicans toward gays in the military.

Yang's data indicates that Republican support for gay troops had jumped almost 10 percent in four years. In 1996, only 57 percent of self-described conservatives polled favored gay military members, while the 2000 survey showed that 65.7 of 1,807 adults polled supported gay service members. ▼

For more information on SLDN, go to [www.sldn.org](http://www.sldn.org) or call (202) 328-3244.

## Gay sailor's poem in museum exhibit

by Dennis Conkin

A 1987 poem by a 24-year-old submarine sailor, whose marriage and career were ruined when he was thrown out of the Navy because he was gay, is a key feature in an exhibit at the National Museum of History in Washington, D.C.

"Sub Sailor's Views on Glasnost," was written less than a year before Tim Beauchamp, 36, was honorably discharged from the Navy because he was gay.

Beauchamp, an Oklahoma native, was discharged in 1988 after he sought help from Naval medical officials for emotional problems related to sexual orientation issues.

"I was young and naive and very stupid. I believed that with the Navy's help, I could change. It was a huge mistake," Beauchamp told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Beauchamp, who was married at the time, was prompted to seek help and discuss his sexual orientation after his wife confided in her best friend that her husband was gay. The secret became lethal ammunition against Beauchamp after he witnessed the friend, a mother, severely batter one of her children.

Beauchamp had told the woman he would inform child pro-

ductive authorities of what he had witnessed if she did not immediately stop the abusive behavior.

The woman, later faced with child custody issues related to a pending divorce, threatened Beauchamp with exposure.

"It was pretty sad. I really did want to make the Navy my career," said Beauchamp, who had attained the rank of yeoman. Proficient and highly trained in tactical nuclear weaponry, Beauchamp played a pivotal role in plotting missile launches during battle practice aboard the ballistic submarine.

Beauchamp told the B.A.R. that even though he received an honorable discharge, the papers detail the reasons for discharge. He said it is a little known fact that this is the case and that honorably discharged gay and lesbian service members are faced with reluctant or flatly uninterested employers.

Beauchamp said that the only reason he was hired at his first job out of the Navy was because the woman interviewing him had her own disclosure to make.

"I had to show her my DD-214 discharge papers," he said. "I almost didn't get hired." The papers clearly and visibly stated that the reason for his discharge was that he believed he was homosexual.

"In the end, she said that she

was a Democrat and that she didn't believe it was anybody's business," Beauchamp laughed.

Resettled into a relationship with well-known investigative journalist Tony Lee Orr, Beauchamp says the pair have written a fictionalized account of the ordeal, have a literary agency representing them, and are seeking a publisher.

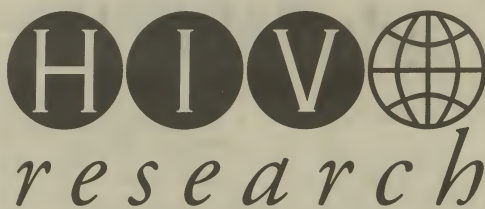
The pair spend much of their time raising Orr's children from his marriage.

"We're on good terms and the kids have four parents and can't pull anything over on us," Beauchamp laughed.

Beauchamp was awarded a good conduct medal, a Sea Service ribbon, and a letter of commendation during his tour in the Navy and as a yeoman was the key administrative enlisted man aboard the Clay.

Beauchamp and his partner also testified before the House Judiciary Committee hearing on hate crime violence in 1999 as victims of hate crimes.

The exhibit "Fast Attacks and Boomers: Submarines in the Cold War," details life aboard a submarine through memorabilia, personal effects, submarine artifacts, and graphic presentations. Beauchamp's poem is displayed near a replica of a submarine bunk. ▼



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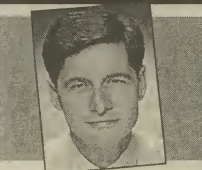
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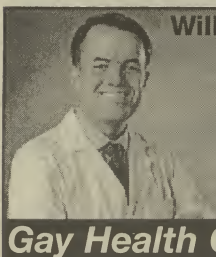
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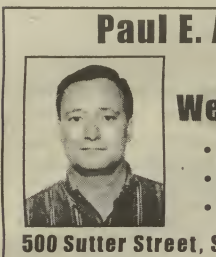




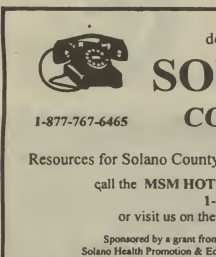
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## Troy Young

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until he was with Ezerski in Ezerski's room at the Vagabond Hotel on Van Ness Avenue when the news came on TV.

"I'm going to draw you a little picture here," said Young. "Adam was facing the TV. I was facing Adam and talking to him and he said 'Motherfucker, that's my picture on TV.' And I'm like, 'Stop it, Adam. Don't tell jokes like that.' He said, 'No, it is. And they are going to come back in just a second and do the whole story.' And the whole time he's looking at this, I'm looking at his face and like I saw he was falling apart from the inside out.

### 'Willing to help'

"It was devastating to me and I know it was devastating to him. Right then he found a champion. Someone that was willing to help him escape from these motherfuckers, if you pardon my French. It was really horrible," said Young in the interview that was monitored and videotaped by two Washoe County Sheriff's deputies in the Reno jail where he has been held since his arrest on August 17. The interview was conducted in a small cell in the jail on Friday, August 24, one week after he was arrested with Ezerski.

Young, 37, was on parole in San Francisco for a drug conviction when he was arrested in Reno. So far, he's only been charged with violating parole. He said he was told that he will be released by September 1 if San Francisco authorities don't come to pick him up. He said that if he's eventually charged with harboring a fugitive, he still won't regret what he's done because he believes it was the right thing to do. Young said he decided to help Ezerski because he was convinced of his innocence and because he identified with him.

"The kid was crying out for help as far as I'm concerned," said Young. "I've always had this super hero complex. I grew up on Polk Street. I got here when I was 17 years old and I was a hustler on Polk Street. So I kind of felt where he was coming from."

Young said his experience with people taught him that the young man he met was anything but a murderer.

"All I've done all my life is about people," said Young. "Since I've been an adult, I've sold my ass on the street, I've been a drug dealer, I've been a bartender, I've been in prison, in jail, and all those things you learn a lot about people."

Contrary to police and media speculation, both Ezerski and Young said their decision to head to Reno had nothing to do with that city's planned gay pride celebration that weekend.

"We were just tooling around and we decided that Reno was the place," said Young.

Young said they decided to leave the Bay Area shortly after they saw the story about Ezerski on TV that Thursday morning. Young said he was also tipped off later that day by a friend that the FBI was looking for him. At least one person from Young's gay bowling league had alerted authorities that Ezerski was with Young at the league's regular Wednesday night gatherings at Serra Bowl in Daly City.

Young said he tried in vain to get Ezerski to turn himself in but Ezerski was too frightened to surrender.

"He didn't want to turn himself in because he was scared to because of how Florida law is,"

said Young. "I was trying to get him to turn himself in but he just wasn't ready yet. I think he was getting readier and readier the more things they threw upon him."

Both Ezerski and Young told the B.A.R. that they were in Reno by late on Thursday, August 16. Young said he got his first inkling that the FBI was on to them early in the day on Friday.

"It was kind of weird," said Young. "Little cars kept popping up all over the place. In fact I said hi to one of them. I had an inkling but I wasn't sure until I left the hotel about a half hour before they arrested us and then I was sure."

### Arrested at hotel

Young said he was arrested just outside his hotel room door. He said the FBI was already inside the room with Ezerski.

"I'd been trying to get Adam to turn himself in since I figured this out, so it's kind of a relief," said Young.

Young said that although he only knew Ezerski for a short time, he loves him as a friend but he said they were never romantically involved.

"I grew to love him as any older person would come to love a younger person that was in trouble, you know what I mean? Me and Adam have never had sex. That's really not what I'm about," Young added. "He really needed a friend. He met other people who only wanted sex from him or whatever and he only needed a friend."

Young said he doesn't believe that Ezerski tried to kill San Francisco resident, Kevin Begoon. Young said that he believes Ezerski's story that the pair got into a fight after Begoon didn't pay him for sex.

"When I get out, [Begoon] will be shunned," said Young. "Trust me, I have a large following in San Francisco. I have been there a long time. I'm a very popular person. And Kevin, you might as well move, because you are not going to be welcome in San Francisco."

Young said that Begoon threw a plaster sculpture at Ezerski, not the other way around as Begoon told police. Young also said that Begoon still has diving equipment belonging to Ezerski.

### Begoon responds

"That's an absolute lie," Begoon told the B.A.R. "But how do I defend myself without looking like I'm trying to make this person look bad?"

Begoon also questioned that if he threw the sculpture at Ezerski, then why did the pieces with his blood on them end up on his bed where he, and not Ezerski, was sleeping. Begoon said he had no property from Ezerski. He said Ezerski told him he had diving equipment but he kept it in the trunk of his car.

"My story has never changed," said Begoon, adding that he didn't want to get into a "pissing match" with Young or Ezerski. Begoon said he reluctantly reported his attack to police out of concern that Ezerski would harm someone else.

Begoon said that he understood Young's disbelief that Ezerski could be a killer because that's exactly how he felt about him before the 19-year-old allegedly attacked him in his sleep. Begoon said that Ezerski first smashed a sculpture over his right eye and then tried to strangle him before he was able to pry off Ezerski's hands and Ezerski ran out of his apartment.

In a follow-up telephone interview with the B.A.R. this week,

Young said that Begoon returned a phone call from Ezerski on his cell phone on Thursday, August 16, after Ezerski called Begoon looking for drugs. Young said that's significant because it contradicts Begoon's statements to the police and press.

Begoon said he hasn't talked to Ezerski since the attack. He noted that Ezerski didn't have his phone number. He said he last heard from Ezerski after he was attacked on Tuesday, August 14, when Ezerski left two messages on his answering machine but that he made those calls from the call box at the front door of his building.

Begoon added that although the reaction he's received has been overwhelmingly supportive, he encountered an older man last Saturday in the Polk Street coffee shop he frequents who appeared to side with Young's point of view, angrily blaming him, not Ezerski, for the attack.

In the telephone interview, Young also strongly denounced an *America's Most Wanted* show that aired last weekend. The program included a reenactment of Ezerski's alleged attack on Begoon. The show referred to Young as a "lowlife." Young said he's considering suing the program over that characterization.

### Police investigation

Meanwhile, Fort Lauderdale police told the B.A.R. that they will work very closely with the state attorney general's office to see if any evidence supports Ezerski's claims that he fought Martilotto to keep from being raped and because he feared for his life.

"What we will do obviously is to look at the statements he has given us and compare it with the forensic evidence we have in the hotel room," said Fort Lauderdale Detective Mike Reed.

Reed added that there was "not really" any sign of a struggle in Martilotto's hotel room, no blood, and no sign of trauma to Martilotto's body. Reed said that when Ezerski was arrested, he made no claims of physical injury that might have supported his claim that he was in a struggle with Martilotto but Reed added that it was possible Ezerski could have been injured and those injuries were healed.

Young said he's seen physical evidence on Ezerski that would indicate that he was hurt in a struggle but he declined to say what those injuries were.

Young said that Ezerski wasn't optimistic about his claims of self-defense being believed in Florida.

"He thinks he's going to get the electric chair," said Young. "That's what he's always thought. And why he thinks that, your guess is as good as mine. Maybe he has a reason to think that, I don't know."

Martilotto, Ezerski's alleged victim from Fort Lauderdale, was strangled. Ezerski drove to San Francisco in Martilotto's rented red Ford Mustang. When asked how he would respond to those who would find it hard to swallow Ezerski's claim that he needed to kill in self-defense, Young said: "So? Some people are going to find it hard to swallow that me, a 37-year old man, would run into Adam and become friends with him in two days and then see on the news with him that he's a murderer. And some people would find it hard to swallow that I would want to help somebody like that. But that's going to be somebody who has no compassion and fuck those people." ▼



# Brazil to produce generic nelfinavir

by Liz Highleyman

Last Wednesday, July 22, Brazil announced that it would produce a generic version of Roche Laboratories' protease inhibitor drug nelfinavir (marketed by Roche as Viracept). Brazilian Health Minister Jose Serra said he had started the

process of declaring AIDS a national emergency and issuing a compulsory license. It is believed to be the first move by a developing country to issue a compulsory license to produce an AIDS drug.

Compulsory licensing allows countries to produce essential medications in the case of a national health emergency. The provision is included in the World

Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) agreement.

Serra said that Brazil had been negotiating nelfinavir prices with Roche for six months, but "we didn't get what we thought was fair." Roche officials expressed surprise at Brazil's announcement, saying that negotiations had been "friendly" and were still continu-

ing. Roche offered a 13 percent price reduction earlier this year, but Brazil wants at least a 40 percent cut to match the price of producing generic nelfinavir locally. Serra said Roche could still try to come up with an offer, "but we aren't going to wait anymore."

"By issuing a compulsory license on nelfinavir, Brazil is forcing a crowbar into a crack in the

dam," said Paul Davis of ACT UP/Philadelphia and the Health GAP Coalition. "We look forward to a flood of broken patents in developing countries being decimated by AIDS."

Eloan Pinheiros of the state-owned Farmanguinhos laboratory said her facility would be ready to produce and distribute the copycat drug early in 2002. The lab has already succeeded in producing generic nelfinavir, and will begin bioequivalency testing to ensure that the generic version works the same as the patented original.

Brazil, which has the most advanced HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention program in the developing world, provides free anti-HIV medications to some 90,000 people with AIDS. Since 1997, it has reduced new infections and AIDS deaths by half. Farmanguinhos produces generic versions of eight anti-HIV drugs. In 2000, Brazil spent over \$300 million on AIDS drugs, more than a quarter of that on nelfinavir alone.

In January, the U.S. had requested that a WTO dispute settlement panel review Brazil's industrial property law, which requires that a foreign company forfeit its patent if it does not produce a product locally. After much international pressure from AIDS treatment advocates and developing country governments, the U.S. withdrew its complaint against Brazil on June 25. The WTO's TRIPS Council is expected to discuss drug access and compulsory licensing at its upcoming meeting in September. ▼

## Ellen to host special taping of TV show for gay group

by Matthew S. Bajko

With political campaigns already gearing up for next year's elections, Ellen De-

Generes will use her new television sitcom *The Ellen Show* to help openly gay and lesbian candidates. She will host the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund at a special taping of her sitcom in October.

After the taping of the show, Ellen and her mother, Betty, will host a dessert reception for event attendees. Betty DeGeneres is a longtime supporter of gay and lesbian civil rights, and of the Victory Fund.

"We are always pleased when openly gay and lesbian members of the entertainment community and their allies support our work in the political arena," said Brian K. Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. "This event is only the latest in Ellen and Betty DeGeneres's commitment to increasing our community's representation at all levels of government, in California and all over the country."

The Victory Fund is celebrating its 10th anniversary as the only national organization whose central mission is to increase the number of openly gay and lesbian public officials at all levels of government in every state nationwide. The Victory Fund provides candidates with the finan-

cial and technical support they need to run winning campaigns, and has helped to more than quadruple the number of openly gay and lesbian elected officials since the organization's founding in 1991.

The Los Angeles chapter of the Victory Fund is helping to coordinate the upcoming event. Tickets for DeGeneres's show and reception are \$50 for current Victory Fund members and \$75 for new or renewing members. The taping will take place at 5:30 p.m. October 5 at CBS Studio Center, Stage 16 and is located at 4024 Radford Boulevard in Studio City.

Co-starring with the Emmy award-winner DeGeneres in *The Ellen Show* are Cloris Leachman, Emily Rutherford, Jim Gaffigan, and Martin Mull. The show is part of the fall CBS lineup and is scheduled to air Fridays at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the special taping can be purchased online at [www.victoryfund.org](http://www.victoryfund.org) or by calling (202) 842-7316. ▼

## Bikers gear up for 'Ride for Life' next weekend

by Katie Szymanski

Rev those engines, and help fight AIDS, breast cancer, and other life-threatening conditions at Shanti's fifth annual "Ride for Life" on Saturday, September 8.

The motorcycle ride from San Francisco to the Russian River offers two scenic routes: one through the countryside of Marin and Sonoma counties, the other up the California coast. Both rides begin with a tour of San Francisco and cross the Golden Gate Bridge.

Riders can collect pledges from family, friends, and coworkers, or pay an entry fee of \$30 per person (\$25 if paid in advance). Both routes begin at the Safeway on Church and Market streets with an 8 a.m. check-in and 10 a.m. departure. Arrivals at the Russian River's Monte Rio Park and Koret

Club are expected by 1 p.m.

The ride benefits Shanti, which for 27 years has provided volunteer-based support and practical assistance to people with serious illnesses. Started as a simple gathering of 55 bikes raising a few thousand dollars for HIV/AIDS in 1997, the Ride for Life has consistently grown, with last year's event including 155 motorcycles and 200 participants raising over \$31,000. Organizers noted that coverage by television and radio news organizations introduced the Ride for Life event to a greater segment of the public.

This year's major sponsor is San Francisco radio station KFOG 104.5 FM, which will cover the event.

To feel the wind in their hair and breeze at their backs, interested riders must register by calling (415) 674-4764 or visiting [www.shanti-rides.org](http://www.shanti-rides.org). ▼

## High school

◀ page 1

statement from Hamilton College Professor Dennis Gilbert. "On the other hand, the graduates express doubts about their own comfort level with gays and report widespread abuse of gay classmates."

The seemingly contradictory data may be encouraging in demonstrating that younger people have the insight and ability to support an issue even if it goes beyond their own personal levels of comfort. In similar data, 62 percent of those polled believe that homosexuality is "the way some people choose to live," rather than something gays are "born with" (23 percent), yet 71 percent believe that same-sex relations should be legal. This, too, may reveal a flaw in some of the mainstream LGBT rhetoric that tends to preach that gays must be held blameless in order to gain their rights, although the 23 percent who did believe in a gay-at-birth trait tended to mark more pro-gay boxes than other respondents.

But despite towing a good party line, a fear of being viewed as homosexual perpetuated by a small but vocal student population with strong anti-gay sentiments (30 percent) means 90 percent of the seniors surveyed reported widespread harassment of gays and lesbians in their schools. The phrase, "That's so gay" is used often to describe things in a negative light, ac-

cording to 88 percent of those surveyed, and 50 percent reported that words like "homo," "dyke," and "fag" are hurled as insults.

Not surprisingly, the anti-gay minority (about 30 percent of graduates) consisted largely of born-again Christians "who regard homosexuality as a moral or religious question," according to researchers. In general, females outnumbered males when it came to pro-gay attitudes, again no surprise considering homophobia against gays and lesbians alike often stems from a reaction to what is considered "masculine."

But the survey also revealed some unexpected demographics, including data that showed Southerners and rural inhabitants to be no more likely to hold anti-gay attitudes, and responses that showed 80 percent of Catholics favoring same-sex marriage, in direct opposition to church doctrine. Another surprise was the weak influence of parents' education, which is normally associated with greater tolerance.

The Hamilton College Gay Issues Poll is the latest in a series of youth opinion polls conducted by Hamilton students and faculty in collaboration with the polling firm Zogby International. The national telephone survey has an expected margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. Complete results can be viewed at [http://www.hamilton.edu/news/gayissuespoll/gay\\_issues.html](http://www.hamilton.edu/news/gayissuespoll/gay_issues.html). ▼

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(\*ICCAC, abstract 1-179, 1997.)

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# Larry Kramer's liver transplant generating heavy media attention

by Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Larry Kramer, the irascible playwright and activist who founded ACT UP, is in need of a liver transplant. Larry's liver has been rapidly failing for the past year due to hepatitis B and HIV-related complications. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has agreed to perform Kramer's transplant. And because Kramer is outspoken and well-known to national media, his proposed liver transplant continues to receive widespread attention. It seems that the media outlets are interested in Kramer's transplant because it represents the first high-profile organ transplant for a person with HIV, a potentially controversial procedure.

Already Kramer has appeared in *Newsweek* magazine, the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* (including a positive editorial in favor of transplants for those who are HIV-positive) and ABC's *Nightline* (aired August 29). So far the reports have been positive featuring Kramer both as activist and in survival mode. For this reason Kramer's transplant may do more to help open the door for HIV-positive transplants than any previous research or results. Though none have spoken out publicly against the Kramer transplant, confidential sources are reporting a high

level of discomfort among the traditionally conservative organ transplant community.

One obvious concern, expressed by this author as well, is the worry that if the transplant goes badly it could set back access for others with HIV. But in the history of organ transplantation, experimental transplants were always part of the equation to broaden patient populations that could benefit. As was mentioned in the recent *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* editorial, if doctors did not perform experimental procedures — pushing the envelope — we would still be allowing transplants for a very small and limited group of candidates such as those who received livers in the 1970s.

A second concern, relayed by sources following organ transplantation for those who are HIV-positive, is that the organ transplant community is worried about possible bad press and its effect on organ donation. It is known that donors can and will curtail organ donations following negative transplant news stories. But this is nothing new either. When early reports about HIV-positive patients getting transplants first generated news back in 1997, a prominent Harvard physi-

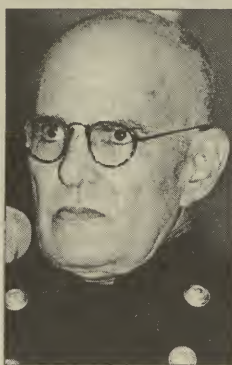
cian told reporters that he feared donations would drop if people with AIDS received transplants. Such concerns were also voiced in the 1970s about blacks both receiving and donating organs, and a debate continues to this day whether or not inmates should be eligible for transplant. Yet organ donation numbers remain steady if not climbing.

Survive AIDS asked Larry Kramer to comment on his health problem and liver transplant candidacy. In his own words: "I am having this transplant because I want to live longer. I have unfinished work to finish, principally my very long novel about the

history of America and the history of this plague, *The American People*, which has a bunch of years' work yet to get it up to where I want it to be. There is no way I can finish it in the predicted year of life left in my liver.

"I am taking a gamble I am going to come through this okay and will have many more than that one year to live. I'd also like to let other coinfecteds see that there is quite possibly a very decent alternative to a slow death from liver failure which had not been available to us until very recently.

"Everyone seems to be very nervous about this transplant



Jane Philomen Cleland

Larry Kramer at the 1995 Project Inform dinner in San Francisco.

issue, and anything to do with the liver, tiptoeing around it rather than discussing it. For instance, I am on adefovir, an experimental drug for hepatitis B. I am doing really great on it. My hep B viral load has gone from zillions to just about undetectable. My ascites (abdominal fluid retention and bloating) does not appear to be reaccumulating so I look like I am carrying triplets. There have been absolutely no side effects that I have had in the over a year I've been on it. And yet I am the only person in the NIH trial for this drug. A second person has just enrolled. The NIH can't understand

it. My nurse coordinator said, 'I can't understand why people aren't standing in line to get this drug.' But something, I think, about the word 'liver' scares everyone. Well we have to get over this, like we have in confronting HIV/AIDS.

"Sure, I'm scared. I say I'm not and most of the time I'm not. But I have little panic attacks now and then, usually late at night up here in the country when I'm alone. I fantasize the operation, how harsh and invasive it is, and how I might not live through it. But then I have to constantly remind myself: I am finally fighting for my life. I haven't had to do that up to now. I've been really lucky with my HIV. I never took the cocktail and my HIV viral load is 700 and my T-cells are 300+ and pretty much always have been. I've only ever taken AZT and EpiVir, both of which I still am on. (However, it was my developing resistance to EpiVir that caused my hepatitis B, previously pretty dormant, to flumminate into the liver disease that now is requiring a new liver. Talk about side effects!)

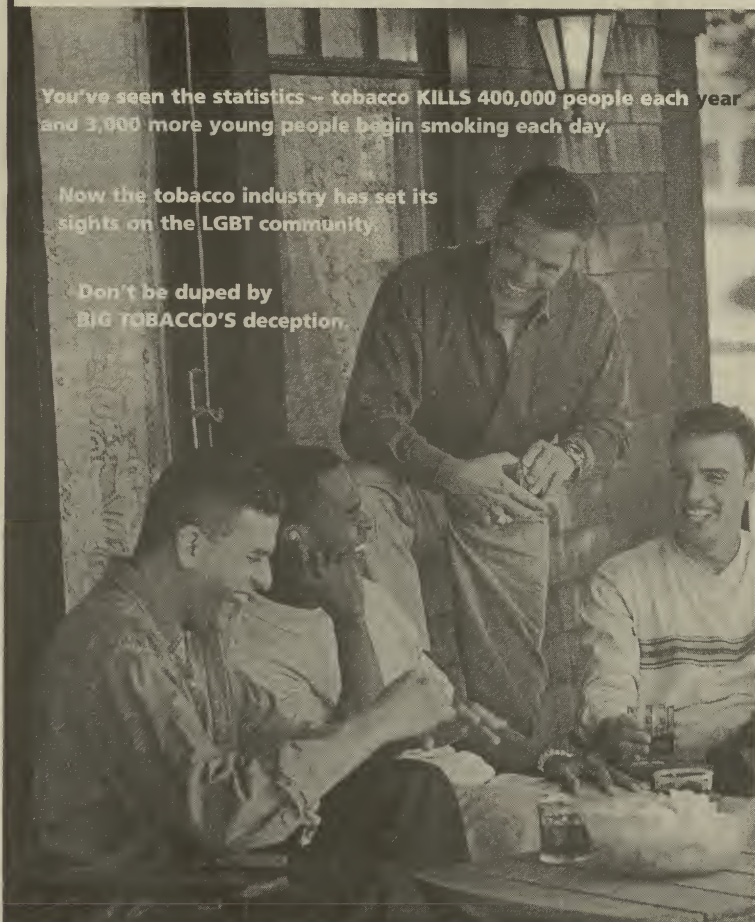
"But I've been spared all the awful opportunistic infections and physical disabilities that all my friends had. Yes, I've been very lucky that I have lived to a time when there are more and more options. That's just sheer luck. Now it's my turn to face the possi-

next page ►

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Steven Schwartz  
1957 — 2001

Steven Schwartz passed away suddenly on August 8 while at work. Born in Brooklyn, New York (where he grew up), he then moved to Staten Island in 1972. A wonderfully loving and supportive family, his parents, Alan and Lorraine Schwartz, his sister Leslie Johnson, brother-in-law Edward Johnson and nephews William, Samuel and Zachary survive him.

After graduating Stenotype Academy, he freelanced, then worked in the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

Steven came to visit friends here, fell in love with this beautiful city, and moved here in 1986.

During his 15 years here he worked at Baron Data, Oracle, and recently at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland as a senior benefits systems analyst.

Steven loved his country western and line dancing and recently began lessons for square dancing, where he made many friends, and will be sorely missed by them.

Steven had a warm and sincere soul and could always be counted on to give a helping hand, a smile, a hug, words of encouragement or a joke whenever anyone needed it. He had a generosity that was only overshadowed by his large loving heart.

Far too soon you departed from us. You have broken our hearts and left a hole in all of our lives which can never be filled.

## Larry Kramer

◀ previous page

bility of oncoming death. Or rather to fight like hell to overcome it. I hear that the usual anti-Larry chat is starting up: I should shut up about this because lives are so scarce, etc. I'll ruin it for everyone else, especially if I die. My response is: if you don't put the battle on the table there's no way to fight it. It's how I've always operated. If I die I know Dr. Fung will learn something from me and I hope that people will fight for him to learn more and more. I'm accused of doing this for publicity. Fucking A I'm doing it for publicity. If we don't find ways to get more lives, then this next plague that is already starting to kill PWAs won't have any hope at all."

In recent months Kramer's health has been stabilizing after he joined an NIH trial to study adefovir, a new anti-hep B drug. As Kramer's health improves and he

gains strength, the better his chances for survival. However, Kramer has been told by doctors not to expect adefovir to repair his significant liver damage such that he would no longer need a transplant.

So far, Kramer enjoys support among the AIDS community and its activists. Jules Levin, a New York-based AIDS and hepatitis C activist from the National AIDS Treatment and Advocacy Project, said the he was very much in favor of the Kramer transplant and that he thought the publicity would have a positive affect. Brenda Lein of San Francisco's Project Inform said, "I don't think there is any controversy here, this is a situation where a man is receiving a medically indicated procedure."

Due to the work of Survive AIDS, Project Inform, University of California, San Francisco Drs. Peter Stock and Michelle Roland, and San Francisco Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D), the UCSF Medical Center has devel-

oped an important new protocol to study HIV-positive organ transplantation.

The pilot study is funded and well under way. Already a handful of livers and kidneys have been successfully transplanted. The UCSF pilot study was successfully aimed at starting a national study, which is under way with 11 sites at various stages of readiness.

Regarding the Kramer transplant, Stock, a UCSF transplant surgeon, said, "Pittsburgh has been the pioneers, they know when they can do the transplant and when they cannot. If he meets the requirements for transplantation, he deserves the same chances as other patients."

Regarding concerns about organ donation Stock remarked, "The public in general ... I hope that they are educated enough to understand. No single group should be singled out to be excluded. It is a very generous gift to make. I hope we are appropriate stewards of these donations." ▼

Applications available  
for HPPC slots

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco HIV Prevention Planning Council, a community planning group that guides the priorities of HIV prevention in the city in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, is now accepting applications for new members. The deadline for submitting an application is next Friday, September 7.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides funding to the city to assist the HPPC in its work. The primary role of the planning body includes conducting an analysis of service gaps, identifying potential strategies and interventions, prioritizing HIV prevention needs, and updating the 2001 HIV prevention plan.

The HPPC came about in 1994, when the CDC asked all states and several cities with high numbers of AIDS cases to take part in a bold new effort to form planning partnerships for HIV prevention programs. Each CDC-funded health department created a community-wide planning process for HIV prevention in order to benefit from the involvement of their communities in developing complete HIV prevention programs.

The CDC mandates that HIV prevention community planning reflect "an open, candid, and participatory process, in which differences in cultural and ethnic background, perspective, and experience are essential and valued." Such

a process is characterized by inclusion, representation, and parity.

Inclusion is the assurance that the views, perspectives, and needs of all affected communities are included and involved in a meaningful manner in the community planning process.

Representation is the assurance that those who are representing a specific community truly reflect that community's values, norms, and behaviors.

Parity is the condition whereby all members of the HPPC are provided opportunities for orientation and skills building to participate in the planning process and to have equal voice in voting and other decision-making activities.

Selection for service on the HPPC is competitive, based on the council's demographic needs to insure inclusion and representation. While related experience may be helpful, the parity process is intended to help all members contribute to the work of the HPPC, regardless of previous experience. Every applicant does not get se-

lected upon initial application; other modes of participation include committee membership and attendance at HPPC meetings.

It is estimated that members spend up to 10 hours a month on planning council matters. Members are expected to participate in one three-hour monthly meeting of the full council, serve on a committee meeting (two hours monthly), and contribute two to six hours per month (average) outside of meetings in preparation and review of materials. Members who find themselves unable to fulfill the meeting attendance requirements may be removed from the council.

To apply for membership on the HPPC, interested people should complete an application form, which can be obtained from DPH, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 500, in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 554-9000. The DPH's HIV prevention section will follow up to acknowledge receipt of applications and may schedule an interview. ▼

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## Robert F. LaVerne

Robert F. LaVerne died unexpectedly of heart failure on Friday August 17, 2001 while visiting his family near Sacramento. He was 65 years old. Robert was a third-generation native San Franciscan and attended Commerce High School. Following his service in the U.S. Navy, he studied business at SF State University and U.C. Berkeley. He began his distinguished career in the credit and collections industry at Balfour-Guthrie & Co., and was Executive Vice President of Great Western Collections Bureau before retiring in 1995. He was a past president of the Insurance Accountants' Association of San Francisco.

Robert was an active and dedicated San Francisco citizen. He was a member of the World Trade Club, the Bankers' Club, and a member of the Press Club for more than 30 years. He loved and was a part of, the colorful history of San Francisco. He was a founding member, director, and membership chairman of the San Francisco Historical Society. His volunteer efforts also included St. Anthony's Foundation, Raphael House for Women, San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Youth Hostel, Hass-Lilienthal House, and Laguna Honda Hospital. Robert loved the SF Giants and was often seen at the Stadium Club visiting with friends and fellow fans. He earned the title of "Mayor of Fell Street" from his neighbors for his commitment to a clean and safe environment. In 1996 Mayor Willie Brown proclaimed June 2nd as Robert F. LaVerne Day in honor of his many contributions to the City.

Robert loved to travel, entertain, and dine in San Francisco's finer restaurants. He was a wonderful brother, loyal friend, and everyone's favorite "Uncle Robert." He will be dearly missed.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at the Swedenborgian Church located at the corner of Lyon and Washington Streets in San Francisco. Robert will long be remembered with his name on a bronze plaque set along San Francisco's official historical walk, the Barbary Coast Trail. Donations for the plaque may be sent in his name to the San Francisco Historical Society, PO Box 420569, San Francisco, CA 94142-0569.

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# Maneuvers

## Gay bowlers invade Presidio

by Jim Provenzano

"We're taking over the whole place."

Thus asserts an emissary from one of many recovering troops in the bowling trenches, where the freedom to bowl is a constant struggle.

Despite the untimely closing of Japantown Bowl (whose owners, Kintetsu, decided to gut the acclaimed social hall and fill it with servers for the dot-bombs yet to arrive, or never to show), like autumn blooming flowers, whose fruit is... bowling balls, the season of lanes has given forth like a late harvest of... bowling balls.

Tim Peske is one of those farmers, or soldiers. Okay, bowlers. Enough with the over-

ripe similes.

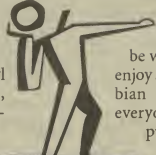
Peske, who bowled in gay leagues "Before you were born, probably," is looking forward to seeing more GLBT folks fill the lanes with the usual queer brand of athletic, social, and convivial spirit.

Starting September 7 at the Presidio Bowl, Friday night community trio teams will be welcome to sign up and enjoy a full-scale gay and lesbian bowling invasion of everyone's favorite scenic public/private trust, the Presidio.

With a nice view, and no more of those pesky MPs doling out tickets, everyone is welcome to come.

"We have a lot of fun," Peske said of his mixed league.

I had a lot of fun with some MPs a while back, but that was a whole different strike zone.



**Sports Complex**



Military strikes: Unlike the old days, annoying MPs no longer apply their strict rules at Presidio Bowl. Darn.

Open to men and women and others, it's no cost to join this league, but there is a nominal fee for weekly bowling rates. And it's all in the wooded beauty of the Presidio in Building 93.

For more info, contact Duane Flohra at (510) 865-7272 or e-mail dunae300@bowl.com.

### Trios in the afternoon

There's a Thursday afternoon league, too, great for those who work at night or don't like to go out late.

This league is now moving from the Presidio to Serra Bowl. Thursdays 1 p.m. at Serra Bowl in Daly City. It all starts September 13 (meeting at noon before bowling), 3-person teams and, also, individuals to complete teams.

ABC/WIBC sanctioned, the Golden Gate Trios League is also a member of IGBO, an international gay bowling organization, and members can qualify for IGBO tournaments held in May and November of each year.

Winter season starts September 13 and runs through January 24, 2002. (So, technically, it's a fall league in winter, but this is San Francisco where summer is wintry, so who can say?)

Contact: Serra Bowl (650) 922-3444 or peterdi@home.com or sfjoecamp@aol.com or daysleaper@earthlink.net. The Presidio Bowling Center, (415) 561-2695 or e-mail peterdi@home.com, sfjoecamp@aol.com.

Other perennial and annual leagues that are sprouting up include:

### Monday Tavern Guild Trios

This is one of the original gay leagues, started in 1965 at Park Bowl. Mondays, 6 p.m. at Serra Bowl in Daly City. Starts September 10 (meeting at 5:30 before bowling), 3-person teams and, also, individuals to complete teams. Contact: DJ Momme (415) 647-7824 or mommebowl@earthlink.net.

### Monday Sydney 2002 League

This is an ongoing league preparing for the Sydney Gay Games VI, slated for November 2002, but going to Sydney is not a requirement. Mondays, 7:45 p.m. at Sea Bowl in Pacifica. Starts September 17.

### Wednesday Community League

This is a league of mixed level bowlers. Wednesdays 7:20 p.m. at Serra Bowl in Daly City. Starts September 19 (meeting at 6:30 before bowling), 4-person teams and, also, individuals to complete teams. Contact: Carol Hull (415) 864-4467 or carolhull@yahoo.com.

### SF Women's Bowling League

Bowls at the Presidio on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Starts September 9, with a meeting at 5 p.m. before bowling. Contact Cathy Patterson at paterc@sutterhealth.org.

### Golden Gate Invitational Scratch League

This league is scratch (i.e. no handicap), as in most leagues.

This is the league for more experienced, competitive bowlers. Teams are determined by draft. Thursdays 8:30 p.m. at Sea Bowl in Pacifica. It starts September 20 (meeting at 7 p.m. before bowling). Call, in advance, Jim Cheslin at (650) 738-1729.

### Sunday Rainbow League

Sundays 6:30 p.m. at Serra Bowl in Daly City. This starts September 9, 3-person teams and individuals to complete teams. Contact: Serra Bowl (650) 922-3444.

### Foot soldiers

The BayLands chapter of Front Runners is holding its annual Run for the Community on Sunday September 9 at 9 a.m. The event is a fundraiser for community-based organizations, this time, Free at Last in East Palo Alto.

Free at Last provides a range of services, including drug addiction recovery programs, HIV testing and counseling, transitional housing, and job placement services. Contributions also go to the PFLAG scholarship fund, and to the Support Network for Battered Women.

The event costs \$20 for registration before September 1. Events include a 10K and a 5K, both certified. Participants receive T-shirts. Registration forms are available at <http://www.baylands.org/RFTC2001>.

Team SF's general membership meeting is Saturday, September 8, from 3-5 p.m. at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, on Collingwood between 18th and 19th streets in the Castro. For details, e-mail info@teamsf.org.

### Angels, we have her

We are all cordially invited to the 20th annual Lesbian Gay Sports Day Festival presented by Team San Francisco and the San Francisco FrontRunners on Saturday, September 15.

At 9:45 a.m. depart from Pier 41 on the Blue and Gold Ferry at San Francisco's Fisherman's

next page ►

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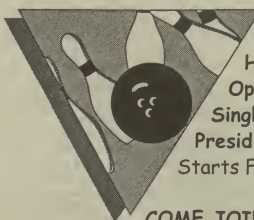
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## Milk Club

◀ page 3

she said.

Among her accomplishments, Leal said, are an increase in revenue collections from businesses that were underreporting, implementation of a socially responsible investment screen on city investments, and putting the city's financial services contract with Bank of America out to bid for the first time in decades.

Some other Milk Club mem-

bers also praised Leal's tenure.

Sharon Bretz, a lesbian who was fired from the Parking and Traffic Commission several years ago by Brown, said she supports Leal.

I believe she's doing an excellent job," Bretz told the B.A.R. She added that she believes some Milk Club members are "resentful of Leal's affiliation with the Brown administration."

Over the next several weeks leading up to the September Milk Club meeting, Bretz suggested Leal "could change people's hearts and minds by speaking the truth."

"She can explain some votes; that can often change people's minds," Bretz added.

Jeff Sheehy, a former Milk Club president, told the B.A.R. that he was surprised by the results in the treasurer's race.

"I'm shocked, because Susan has done a great job as treasurer," Sheehy said. "She's one of the few open LGBT folks who holds an administrative position and it's a shame the Milk Club doesn't recognize Susan's careful stewardship of the financial resources of the city." ▼

## Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

White House aides, **Rahm Emanuel** is running for a House seat from Illinois.

So is there anyone sorry to see the SOB **Jesse Helms** go? Even the Republicans are so fed to be happy the racist, homophobic senator is leaving. Bush White House officials are reportedly holding daily prayer meetings, hoping that the Big Guy upstairs keeps both Helms and **Strom Thurmond** around until the end of their terms.

S.F. Weekly writer **Matt Smith** starts a recent story on the city's ever-growing homelessness problem with this: "Postcard San Francisco is all bulgy-windowed Victorians and for-enveloped trolley cars. Real life San Francisco is a glinting sea of shopping carts; they scurry furtively under park cypress. They roll down our steep hills before crashing into the gutter." The Weekly story claims that city workers say they find 900 such carts abandoned each week, re-

trieve them, and send them back to their grocery store owners, all at an annual cost to taxpayers of \$600,000. Smith quotes Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** as saying "this contributes to a climate that is becoming more and more untenable in the city. People are hauling their personal belongings in those carts, and that's untenable; without getting into a philosophical discussion, I'll say I don't think it's advantageous to use other people's property to transport their own personal property." The question begs to be asked—other than the S.F. Weekly, **Rob Morse** from the *Chronicle*, and possibly Supervisor Newsom, who else at City Hall has even noticed this ever-growing homeless problem. Indeed, who even seems to care? What to do? I certainly don't know, but a note to Supervisor Newsom: give me a call, sir, when you get ready to run for mayor.

George W. Bush, in a rare public mention of those fun-loving 19-year-old twins **Jenna and Barbara**, both of whom have had brushes with the Austin cops over illegal underage drinking, said:

"They're both independent little girls right now and they're both in college, and that's good."

Another quote from a quotable politico: Governor **Gray Davis**, arriving nearly an hour late last week for a \$500-per person cocktail fundraiser party (for his own campaign, of course) in the East Bay city of Brentwood, hosted by state Senator **Tom Torlakson** (D-Antioch): "The traffic was terrible," Davis said, referring to the busy commute his three-car caravan took through the Caldecott Tunnel to an even busier Highway 4 at rush hour; just like the common commuters have to deal with, huh guy?

Much to the chagrin of the Bush White House campaign operatives, the hoped-for revival of California's Republican Party looks doomed, as GOP moderates and old-line right wing conservatives, long in control of the state machinery, prepare to do battle at next month's GOP state convention in Los Angeles; nothing but sweet music to Gray Davis and the California Democratic Party.

And how was your week? ▼

## Liberty Forum

◀ page 12

in charge and received assurances that they did not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

Then he called a senior official at the Salvation Army's national headquarters and "in a kind of hypoglycemic high, I said, 'this faggot controls federal grants in the District. You'll never see another cent as long as you live. I'll subpoena every one of you motherfuckers and I'll turn my chamber into a national circus. Do we understand each other?'"

Within the hour he had the letter that he wanted from the organization. It denounced any intention of discriminating against gays

and lesbians. "And that's the importance of being at the table," Catania concluded.

This reporter said the very limited role that openly gay people play in the Bush administration means that it "has a tin ear" when it comes to many issues affecting the community. Consequently one should anticipate that it will make more mistakes such as with the Salvation Army, and the media with its love of conflict is going to play them up. The community has to be prepared and react. It does not always have the luxury of following its own agenda and timetable.

Tafel said that one has to seize opportunities as they arise and meet people on their own terms. One of the reasons why AIDS ini-

tially was so important for Log Cabin was because it was an issue that many politicians did not know how to handle. AIDS was "a reason to let you in the door" and Log Cabin was able to build broader ongoing relationships from that initial contact. ▼

**Full disclosure: Bob Roehr was a member of this discussion panel. The sponsor supplied his airline ticket and hotel room; no honorarium or speaking fee was paid. A brief comment that he made is included in the article. The entire 16,000-word transcript is available online at the Liberty Education Forum Web site:**

[www.libertyeducationforum.org](http://www.libertyeducationforum.org)

## Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Wharf to Angel Island's East Garrison Picnic Area.

Join Team San Francisco and the FrontRunners for their annual celebration of lesbian, gay and bisexual sports in the East Garrison Picnic Area on Angel Island which is situated in the San Francisco Bay. No, not the prison, the other island.

This event is a potluck lunch-type thing, so follow the Hints for Heloise alphabetical guide: Is your last name begins with A-G, bring a dessert; H-Q, a main dish; and R-Z, make with the endive and whip up a salad.

Bring your own drinks, serving utensils, and something to grill, if meat or veggie shishkabobs are to your liking.

Team San Francisco and the SF FrontRunners will provide plates, plastic ware, cups, condiments, hot grill, etc.

You also might want to bring sports equipment for running, bicycling, volleyball, softball, football, Frisbee, hiking, swimming, or any other activity of your choice or spend the day enjoying the beautiful natural setting. There's a big field for a bit of tag anything, a small diamond, and bike trail that circumnavigates the tiny island.

Round-trip ferry tickets are \$10.50 for the available in advance from Team San Francisco, FrontRunners and the day of the event at Pier 41.

The ferry ride over may be a bit windy, so bring a snappy and fashionable jacket, but not your fancy overpriced A&F cap, which might get blown off your head and become shark floss. You know those sharks are just getting a bit aggressive these days. No telling if swimming's as safe as it used to be.

On land, you can meet many representatives from our diverse local lesbian, gay, and bisexual sports clubs.

Early risers, take the 9:45 a.m.

ferry. Depart from Pier 41 at Fisherman's Wharf (415-705-5555). Purchase tickets in advance from Team SF or FrontRunners. Additional departures are at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Ferries from Tiburon and Oakland/Alameda to Angel Island are also available. At 10:20 a.m. the San Francisco ferry arrives at Ayala Cove. Walk or pedal the 1.7 miles to the East Garrison Picnic Area.

At 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. the Blue & Gold Ferry departs Ayala Cove for San Francisco. At 4:40 p.m. the last Blue & Gold Ferry departs, so don't miss it, unless you want to camp overnight.

For more info, call Team San Francisco (415) 522-2386 (voice mail), check out [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org) or e-mail [info@teamsf.org](mailto:info@teamsf.org); Angel Island State Park (415) 435-1915, or Blue and Gold Fleet (415) 705-5555, or [www.blueandgoldfleet.com](http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com).

No one is an island, so visit [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org). ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250733

The following person(s) are doing business as: Morning Star Import, 2813 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shing Yuen-Sin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/03/01. AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250661

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chinatown Economic Development Group, 638 Kearny Street, Suite #202, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a non-profit organization signed Sally Leung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, December 10, 1992. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/01/2001. AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250656

The following person(s) are doing business as: Doolittles, 2727 Market Street #302, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by co-partners signed George Leslie Freeman and Richard Shiu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/01/2001. AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250620

The following person(s) are doing business as: SF Handyman, 2753 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darrel Nystrom. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/2001. AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250628

The following person(s) are doing business as: Perfect Moving, 2442 34th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Duojin Han. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/2001. AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250869

The following person(s) are doing business as: HangOnTight Productions, 1145 Union Street, Suite 12, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Susan E. Ordway. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 9, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/9/2001. AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250748

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hanaro, 939- Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kili S. Kirkpatrick. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 3, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/3/2001. AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.323970

In the Matter of the Application of Wendi Sue Knutson. For change of Name. The application of Wendi Sue Knutson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Wendi Sue Knutson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wendi Knut Stern. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 22nd day of October, 2001, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 2001

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 244276

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Hanaro. Located at: 939 Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/18/2000. This business was conducted by: a individual: William Handy AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Gochez Gina Marie and Mala Taylor Azevedo. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 823 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. Type of license Applied for: 47-0N SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE

DATE: AUG. 16, 23, 30, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250641

The following person(s) are doing business as: Post All Center, 530 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Holbert. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/2001. AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250945

The following person(s) are doing business as: The SOMA Company, SOMA Coffee, SOMA Wholesale, The Cheap Art Gallery, 1601 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rucker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/14/2001. AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250573

The following person(s) are doing business as: Michael Merrill Design & Decoration, 1000 Brannan Street Ste. #900, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Michael Merrill, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, January 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/27/2001. AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.324030

In the Matter of the Application of Phung, Lesly T. For change of Name. The application of Phung, Lesly T. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Phung, Lesly T. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Fung, Andy T. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of October, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250949

The following person(s) are doing business as: Martin & Lloyd, 4104 24th Street, #236 San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3615. This business is conducted by an individual signed Martin Sanchez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/14/2001. AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250493

The following person(s) are doing business as: Progressive Trading Company, 2248 19th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christin L. Chow. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 24, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/24/2001. AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250988

The following person(s) are doing business as: Candie's General Merchandising, 207 Sagamore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Candalaria M. Caballero. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/15/2001. AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.250830

The following person(s) are doing business as: Theresa's Messenger Service, 937 Persia Street San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul A. Holt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/08/2001. AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.251150

The following person(s) are doing business as: Soma Diner, 362 9th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Le Kwak Le and Whon Dier Kwak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 22, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/22/2001. AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO.251084

The following person(s) are doing business as: Painting Solutions J.N. Company, 575 Eddy Street #209 San Francisco, Ca. 94109-8020. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jorge A. Navarro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/21/2001. AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001



# BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for Food Service at three different locations on our Main Campus at 50 Phelan Ave. An Open House to view all three spaces will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. We will assemble at the City Café on the lower level of the Student Union. Proposals are due not later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, September 28, 2001.

To sign up for the Open House and to receive a proposal packet, please contact Stephen J. Herman, Director of Administrative Services or Yolanda Panem at (415) 241-2327.

#### STATEMENT FILE NO. 251121

The following person(s) are doing business as: Skin Sense By Kathleen. 2660 Gough Street, Suite #204, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathleen Shapona. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/22/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

#### STATEMENT FILE NO. 251091

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hair Touch. 341 Balboa Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kivong Chi Gao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 21, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/21/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

#### STATEMENT FILE NO. 251154

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jumbo Seafood Restaurant. 1532 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Eric Zhou, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/23/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

#### STATEMENT FILE NO. 250971

The following person(s) are doing business as: Horwath Hospitality Investment Advisors. 116 New Montgomery Street Suite 916, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joel W. Hiser, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/15/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

#### STATEMENT FILE NO. 250976

The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. Live! 1388 Haight Street #207, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jerry Yalowitz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/15/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0205533

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Jumbo Seafood Restaurant. Located at: 1532 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/19/96.

This business was conducted by: a husband and wife. Kin Bun Lam and Dina Shu Hong Lam.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Jumbo Seafood Restaurant Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1532 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. Type of license Applied for:

41-0N- SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE  
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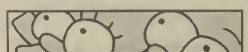
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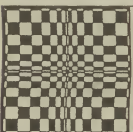
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lighting of the lake **wednesday 8/29**

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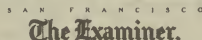
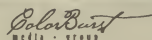
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pages 27-29, 32 & 40

**Have a little priest**  
Gays and the Catholic  
Church in 'Avow' at NCT.

page 33



**Queer South Asian film**  
QFilmistan is first S. Asian  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 35 • 30 August 2001



Barbra Streisand in *Funny Girl*

## Triumphant Lady

Restored 'Funny Girl'  
at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Thirty-three years after her screen debut, audiences have grown so accustomed to Barbra Streisand, Superstar, that they may not realize how unlikely her longterm movie success seemed in 1968, or how carefully producer Ray Stark tailored *Funny Girl* to her talents. The restored film version of her 1964 Broadway triumph, originally intended on stage for Anne Bancroft, plays the Castro Theatre August 31 through September 6.

Streisand portrays comedian/singer Fanny Brice (1891-1951) from the inception of her career through her acclaim as a Ziegfeld's Follies headliner starting in 1910. The movie opens with the star, back to the camera, wearing an elegant leopard skin coat and hat, walking into a theatre. She pauses by a full-length mirror and we see her face for the first time as she cracks, "Hello, gorgeous!" It's the day her husband, embezzler Nicky Arnstein (Omar Sharif), is scheduled to be released from prison. While she waits, we get a long flashback of how she got to where she is.

Born in New York's heavily Jewish Lower East Side, Fanny endures her neighbors telling her mother (Kay Medford) that with her homely face, she won't make it in show biz. (Streisand, defensive about her looks from the beginning, disarms critics by raising the issue herself.) Neither Fanny nor her mother believe it; they're right. She gets her first break in a hilariously-staged roller-skating dance number. She meets the handsome and charming Arnstein, who gets her a \$50/week salary and arranges her audition for Florenz Ziegfeld (Walter Pidgeon).

The real Fanny Brice became a

page 30 ►

## SF Opera's new world order

2001-02 season opens next week

by Stephanie von Buchau

The San Francisco Opera's 79th season opens on September 7 at the War Memorial Opera House. And that's the last uncontroversial thing I can say about it. Even opening night's *Rigoletto*, which ought to be a slam dunk, smells dubious, from its chi-chi production to its lightweight cast, courtesy of former director Lotfi Mansouri and his casting guru, Christina Scheppelmann. The only thing one can say for sure about the 2001-2002 season is that, good or bad, it's not likely to happen again.

The new general director, Pamela Rosenberg, who took office on August 1, has already told me that her repertory in coming years will contain little bel canto or romantic French opera. "You've had plenty of that already, and well done, too," she said during a May interview. In all honesty, while one laments the loss of the promised *Werther* with Vessalina Kararova and Ramon Vargas, SFO has been very lucky with the French and bel canto reps since the days of Kurt Herbert Adler.

There was a spate of international interviews — *Opera*, *The New York Times*, *Opera News* — the week Rosenberg took over. All harped on the subject of "new" repertory, taking whacks at the provincial San Franciscans who were supposedly shuddering at the thought of having to listen to 20th-century scores and to witness modernist concepts of Wagner, Verdi and Puccini. Let them snigger. Those with short memories forget that SFO was producing Shostakovich, Berg, Janacek, Britten, Tippett, Poulenc, Einem, Adams, even Rosenberg's beloved *Les Troyens* (twice, albeit in truncated form) as far back as the late 1950s, when no other major opera company in America did so.

It's not as if we were operatic savages out here. Recent audiences may have been surfeited with middle-brow productions, but those with historical perspective recall that Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, the 20th century's most original designer-director — who could (and did) read music, unlike most of today's smart-aleck deconstructionists — started his career here at SFO in 1958. His jolly *Falstaff* and smoky *Carmen* hopefully with its origi-

page 29 ►



Eva Urbanová as Tosca and Richard Leech as Cavaradossi will star in San Francisco Opera's production of Puccini's *Tosca*

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



by Roberto Friedman  
and Autumn Blossoms

Out with the old and in with the new! We're so ready for the new arts season which descends upon us next week. If we had to read one more summer dog-days angle in the papers, we were going to tear out all of our remaining hair.

We're looking forward to revisiting the wigs and the Technicolor vaudeville world of *Funny Girl* this week at the Castro Theatre. According to a reliable film mole, the studio had to be prodded into booking its re-release at the Castro, perhaps the film's best

possible venue, where *Ziegfeld's Follies* would look right at home!

In other-venue news, the 5th annual **MadCat Women's International Film Fest** opens its Tuesday night series of screenings on Sept. 4 outdoors at El Rio, 3158 Mission St. MadCat's first attraction is *Maedchen in Uniform* (1931), the legendary German post-Expressionist **lesbian boarding-school** epic, and how many films can you say that about? MadCat shows at El Rio are Tuesdays in Sept. at 8:30 p.m.; screenings at ATA are Thursdays in Sept. at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7.

#### Devil made us do it

Hallo-weenie is just around the bend, and Out There has learned that the **Blair Witch** herself will be mounting her broomstick and jetting to our scary li'l burg to stir up some smoke.

That's right, **Hostess Huestis** has confirmed that the original Queen of Spin, actress **Linda Blair**, will be turning heads at the Castro Theater on Friday, October 19, to kick off the spooky season. The Academy Award nominee will be appearing live, queried onstage by chatty hatty **Jan Wahl**.



Queen of Spin Linda Blair

La Blair, who made famous the cocksucker-from-Hell character **Regan** from *The Exorcist* and is now an avid animal-rights activist, will also unveil her hot-off-the-press autobiography, appropriately entitled *Go Vegan*.

Well-known thespians **Connie Champagne**, **Trauma Flintstone**, **Arturo Galster** and **Matthew Martin** will appear in *The Linda Blair Witch Project*, a tribute to Blair and the other True

#### Hags of Hollywood Horror.

The ghoulish evening will climax with a screening of the reissued version of *The Exorcist*, the film that marked a point of no return in the visual depiction of **bodily fluids**, freeing vomit for all films to follow. Not to mention forever altering our perception of **pea soup**. Oh, the horror! Partial proceeds benefit **Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS)**. Call 863-0611, tell 'em Out There sent you, and receive a \$2 discount just for making it through this item.

#### The Phantom knows

Ever wonder what **your garbageman's** sex life is like? We know we do, especially when a certain one on rounds down our street wakes us up at 4:35 a.m. with the banging and the clanging and the hollering. And yet we love him so.

Now the definitive statement on the fetishes of a kinky trash-collector into rubber suits, water-sports and bondage in Lisbon has arrived in the form of an art film. As part of the *New Portuguese Cinema* series at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts this fall, **Joao Pedro Rodrigues' O Fantasma**



Ricardo Meneses as Sergio

(*The Phantom*) (2000) screens at YBC on Friday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Humpty **Ricardo Meneses** is Sergio the garbageman, lost in a delirious haze of anonymous, demeaning sex. He likes to lick the walls of the public lav.

If you go, don't expect Hollywood production values; the film is dark, as in badly lit, and arty. But we think it serves a niche. Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? Tickets at 978-ARTS.

#### Trannies shake fannies

Local girls make good: former Sfer **Justin Bond** is the toast of all Manhattan these days, as **Bond** and **Kenny Mellman's** cabaret act *Kiki & Herb* continues to slay 'em in its smash run. A huge color caricature of K&H graced the pages of *The New Yorker* earlier this summer. You know you've really made



Kiki & Herb in *The New Yorker*

it when you've had your mug drawn up for the color glossies.

Then, last week, there was SF-born dragapella quartet **Kinsey Sicks** in full-color glory in the *NY Times*, which served up a gushy feature on the Sicks' current splash in P-town prior to their off-Broadway opening in October as the inaugural act in a new cabaret space at Studio 54. The piece finds **Rachel** (Ben Schatz), **Winnie** (Irwin Keller), **Trixie** (Maurice Kelly) and **Trampolina** (Chris Dille) looking adorable in three huge photos, and there's even a glamour shot of Rachel (as Ben) shaking **Bubba Clinton's** paw! Talk about access.

Next month, hold onto your rudder as **Hostess Heklina** and her sidekick **Miss Chocolate** rock the boat on *S.S. Trannyshack*, *A 3-Hour Tour*. Trannyshack hits the Bay on Sat., Sept. 22, boarding at 9 p.m. at Pier 41. Ticket (\$35-\$45) info at [www.heklina.com](http://www.heklina.com).

#### Rock of ages

Pop star **McDonna** ("Billions and billions served") is currently slouching towards Oakland, where her big-ticket show debuts in just a few days. Judging from the recent HBO special, the *Drowned World* tour should be subtitled, "Who's that Middle-aged Girl?" Madonna now looks like actress **Barbara Bain** in a rerun of '70s TV show *Mission: Impossible*. Except that hubby **Guy Ritchie** is no **Martin Landau**.

On a scale of 1-10, we'd give her current showcase a 5. Bottom line: Madonna is now too old for her own act.

#### There they go again

And who's on the cover of the fall preview issue of *Out* magazine but yet another straight-boy **Aberzombie & Fitch model**. Even in the new season, some things — like national gay mags with straight lust-objects on the cover — never change. ▼



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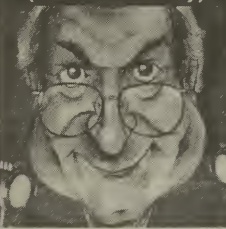
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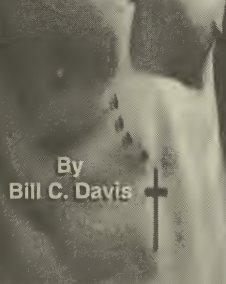


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## THEATRE

# Bring on the shows

## Previewing 2001-02 theater season

by Richard Dodds

In what is shaping up as a season of diminished dreams, disappearing surpluses, and redundant workers, perhaps the theater can offer some spiritual and intellectual nourishment — or at least a few happy distractions from all this.

Here's just a taste of what awaits theatergoers in 2001-2002, bearing in mind that some of the most exciting offerings will likely pop up as the season unfolds.

### Solo flights

Lily Tomlin may be alone on-stage, but beginning Sept. 12 she'll be conjuring a dozen strange and wonderful characters at Theatre on the Square. San Francisco is the first city to see *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* since its hit revival on Broadway.

Marga Gomez, the Bay Area's favorite gap-toothed lesbian comic, returns to Theatre Rhino on Nov. 8 with a new one-woman show. But unlike her previous autobiographical solo efforts, *The 12 Days of Cochina* is about a fictional character in what Rhino calls "a toxic new holiday comedy."

Janis Stevens has played many of Vivien Leigh's roles on stage, and, beginning Sept. 8 at the Magic Theatre, she'll be playing Vivien Leigh herself. *Vivien: The Triumph and Madness of Vivien Leigh* is set in 1967, shortly before her death, and takes her through her theatrical and personal ad-

ventures.

### Musical specialties

Nobody ever does Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*, nobody that is except TheatreWorks. The kabuki-styled musical about the Westernization of Japan opens in Mountain View on Sept. 1.

There will be a double dose of Sondheim's *Passion* during the coming season, with the Venus Rising Company opening its production on Feb. 21 at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek, and New Conservatory Theatre Center's *In Concert* series following on March 6.

*Lady in the Dark* brought psychiatry to the musical theater, thanks to librettist Moss Hart's own experiences on the couch. With a classy score by Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin, the musical gets a rare sighting at Marin Theatre Company beginning Nov. 8.

Richard Nelson won the 1999 Tony Award for best book of a musical for *James Joyce's The Dead*, though the elongated title announces the source of that libretto. Nelson is directing the musical himself at ACT, where performances begin Oct. 25.

Bill Russell and Henry Krieger have found a home at TheatreWorks, which has staged their *Side Show* and *Everything's Ducky*. Beginning April 10, the theater will offer the world premiere of *Kept*, a musical set in the go-go world of Manhattan in the 1980s.

### Star power

Oscar-winner Holly Hunter

stars as a vengeful woman wronged by her lover in Irish playwright Marina Carr's *By the Bog of Cats*..., beginning its run at San Jose Rep on Sept. 6.

San Jose Rep also has Lynn Redgrave starring in her own play *The Mandrake Root*, beginning Jan. 26. It is said to be inspired by Redgrave's relationship with her mother.

Speaking of the Redgraves, Vanessa and brother Corin were due this fall at the Curran Theater in *The Cherry Orchard*. But Actors Equity recently nixed a Broadway run, and that undid the plans to bring it to San Francisco.

Seen twice in *Hecuba*, Oscar-winner Olympia Dukakis returns May 9 to ACT as the monstrously strong matriarch in Maxim Gorky's *The Mother*.

Kitten with a whip now has her own cathouse. Ann-Margret stars as Miss Mona in a new production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* coming to the Golden Gate Theatre in the spring. Madam's gowns are by Bob Mackie.

### Recasting Coward

John Fisher, the man behind *Medea - the Musical*, will put his stamp on Noel Coward's menage-a-trois comedy *Design for Living* at Theatre Rhino starting Jan. 17.

Director Charles Randolph-Wright, who created a '50s black milieu for *Tartuffe*, returns to ACT on Feb. 21 to work another



Wilson Graham

Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures* is coming to the Bay Area.

transformation on Coward's *Blithe Spirit*.

Or you can spend *An Evening with Noel Coward* at the Spreckels Center in Rohnert Park as San Francisco entertainer Craig Jessup reprises his popular one-man show beginning Jan. 24.

### Queer premieres

Hal Corley's *Legion* will start its New Conservatory Theatre Center run on Jan. 23, the first production for this play about the world of straight men who lead secret gay lives.

Killer lesbians, and the media's next page ►

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# Adventurous concerts ahead

## SF Symphony's new season shows lots of promise

by Philip Campbell

**W**e never really get to experience summertime in San Francisco. Now that single tickets for the new Symphony season have gone on sale, at least we can spend a chilly August evening picking out some promising events at Davies Hall.

Opening night this year looks a little like Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas is resting on his laurels. An all-American concert with a popular guest star, soprano Audra McDonald, is somewhat formulaic, and Bernstein and Gershwin are staples in the MTT repertoire. Still, after the Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* and the Overture to *Girl Crazy*, there will also be a medley of Duke Ellington songs, and a quick nod to a living composer with John Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*.

Nothing very challenging there, but that's hardly what first-

nighters are looking for. The first week of concerts will have Lisa Vroman (that *Phantom* girl) stepping in for McDonald; after hearing her in *Sweeney Todd* in July, I'm tempted to go twice. Celebrating Ellington, even if his serious symphonic output won't be explored, is also a good idea, and high time, too.

Next, the SFS will settle in with an altogether more earnest attitude with back-to-back weeks of Mahler. With what we know of MTT's mature appreciation of this composer, I would suggest snapping up tickets ASAP. The Symphony No. 6 in A minor, *Tragic*, will fill an entire bill, and I can't wait to hear what our maestro has in mind for this magnificent if problematic work.

The less adventurous may wish to wait for the following week's Symphony No. 1 in D major, *Titan*, coupled with the gravely beautiful *Kindertotenlieder*, to be sung by contralto Nathalie Stutzmann. The blazing excitement of

the First should contrast nicely with the song cycle.

Then the orchestra will get a breather of sorts with a piece already rehearsed from last season, Bartok's brilliant Concerto for Orchestra (a surprise crowd-pleaser), and two members of the band will get star turns as well. Glenn Fichtal plays trumpet in Copland's *Quiet City* along with Julie Ann Giacobassi on English Horn. The guest artist is cellist Alisa Weilerstein essaying the Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No. 1.

Tilson Thomas displays his enthusiasm for contemporary composers with the first SFS performances of Oliver Knussen's *Choral*. While I may not be a big Knussen fan, if anyone can persuade me, it would be MTT. Beethoven and Strauss are on the same program to keep everyone else appeased.

### Notable guests

Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt will make his annual visit, and some other notable

guest conductors will follow. Stanislaw Skrowaczewski has never fully captured the hearts of local audiences, but his appearance this time will feature his own composition, *Music at Night*; and the beloved James Galway will be with him in Nielsen's Concerto for Flute and Orchestra.

Czech conductor Jiri Belohlavek is justly admired for his Dvorak interpretations, and he will be bringing us that composer's gorgeous *Stabat Mater*, another opportunity for Vance George's San Francisco Symphony Chorus to shine. Roberto Abbado will follow with two weeks on the podium and the opportunity to hear Schoenberg's lush *Pelleas und Melisande*, the aural equivalent of those gilded lovers painted by Gustav Klimt.

Bernhard Klee will conduct Jan Klusak's Variations on a Theme by Mahler, and spectacular violinist Vadim Repin will play Bruch's Concerto No. 1. David Zinman will lead the orchestra in the Brahms First, and he will also



Soprano Audra McDonald

bring us perhaps Schoenberg's greatest hit, *Verklarte Nacht* (*Transfigured Night*). This is a good season for Schoenberg enthusiasts, and you can count me in.

As December rolls around, MTT returns big-time with one of his real specialties, the mini-festival. First he goes Italian and then Pan-American, with maverick composers from those parts of the globe. The events kick off with a symposium — there's a lot of Leonard Bernstein in his former student, and MTT shares his knack for communication. The Italian mavericks include Monteverdi and Luciano Berio, with a bit of a stretch for Respighi. The Pan-American group premieres Henry Brant, represented by *Ice Field*. Those concerts will also feature Astor Piazzolla, *Deserts* by Edgar Varese, and Villa-Lobos. Please, sir, I want some more.

Visit the Symphony's exceptional website ([www.sfsymphony.org](http://www.sfsymphony.org)) and review your budget for the new year. There will be more than a few must-hears coming up, and MTT is proving it's fun to be king, wearing his passions on his immaculately tailored sleeve. Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik, in his inaugural season, will himself get a chance to star with Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in early May. ▼

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## Theatre preview

◀ previous page

fascination with them, are the subjects of Kate Bornstein's *Strangers in Paradox: The True Story of Casey and Kid*. The new play by the author of *Hidden: A Gender* opens at Theatre Rhino on March 16.

Doug Holsclaw, Theatre Rhino's artistic director, returns to his playwriting passion with *Knuckles and Crunch*. The look at two drifters working at a gay disco in 1976 Columbus makes its debut at Rhino on May 11.

### Get serious

It's easy to think of the Best of Broadway series as mostly musical fluff, but a trio of esteemed plays are headed to the Curran Theatre during the coming season.

David Auburn's *Proof*, opening Nov. 27, won the 2001 best-play Tony Award for its look at the troubled daughter of a great mathematician, and the dementia she fears may be hereditary.

Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*, due in January, won the 2000 Tony Award for a dramatic story that imagines what might have happened in the actual 1941 meeting between two brilliant physicists who were on opposite sides in the war.

August Wilson's *Jitney*, arriving in March, offers a slice-of-life look at a group of men who drive gypsy cabs in 1977 Pittsburgh, part of Wilson's decade-by-decade chronicle of the 20th-century African-American experience. ▼



## OPERA

## SF Opera season

◀ Arts cover

nal spoken *comique* dialogue) will be seen here this season.

I'm not worried about Rosenberg's production style, either. Like most of my local colleagues, I've never seen a single piece of her work. Unlike them, however, I have no opinion on it yet. What we should discuss is still the most important thing about opera — and if you don't agree, you are wrong — the musical performance. After all, if you just want well-produced drama, go to the legit theater and avoid high prices and inadequate singers.

## The Donald

Rosenberg waxes poetic about SFO music director Donald Runnicles. He's imposed discipline and stylistic flexibility on the orchestra and is a bracing Strauss and Wagner conductor. I still doubt his commitment to serious musicology. This fall's *Merry Widow* is an example of a beautiful score that is being trashed in the name of "show biz." If you don't think that L  har deserves as much textual consideration as Mozart or Verdi — oops, bad examples; SFO screws them musically, too. Also, without having displayed any natural affinity for the idiom, Runnicles insists on conducting Puccini — next summer, yet another *Madama Butterfly*. And when the dour Scot tackles not one but two operatic comedies this fall — *Die Meistersinger* and *Falstaff* — fasten your seat belts.

Even if the orchestra sounds great, the 3,200-seat War Memorial is still an opera singer's house, as opposed to a singing actor's

house of 1,400 seats, which is what Rosenberg is used to in Stuttgart, where she was co-director for 10 years. She told me she'd recently heard the American baritone Nathan Gunn sing an "exquisite" Count Almaviva in the Netherlands, but she'd never hire him for that role here: "He'd have to force that lovely sound." This mother-hen quality is attractive. Rosenberg feels protective towards the young artists she developed because "my predecessor in Stuttgart had run up huge bills by calling a casting agent in Munich and ordering all the big stars. I had to find singers who wouldn't break the bank but would excite the audience."

Somewhat defensively, and without naming names, she stated: "I want to have lots of recognizable singers here, but I want to develop stars, too." Mansouri claimed a few weeks before I talked to Rosenberg that unenlightened subscribers still "demand the same two stars, Domingo and Pavarotti." To which one is tempted to add, probably Bartoli, Bocelli and the new British phenom Russell Watson, as well. Yet he and Scheppelmann repeatedly dropped the ball on important singers. Among those who never appeared here (and now probably won't) are Barbara Frittoli, Natalie Dessay, Monica Groop, Anne-Sofie von Otter, Roberto Alagna (to be fair, he was scheduled and forced to cancel), Angela Gheorghiu, Juan Diego Florez and Christine Goerke.

## Heavy hitters

On the other hand, this season sees the debuts of two prominent heavyweights (and they likely

won't return, either) — the Armenian dramatic soprano Hasmik Papian, described to me by a bel canto maven as "the best Norma I ever heard" (so we get her in the world premiere of *Arshak II*), and the reigning Czech diva, Eva Urbanov   ( *Tosca*). We



Czech soprano Eva Urbanov  

also welcome the return of Olga Borodina, the biggest of Mansouri's discoveries, in the opera she was born to sing, *Samson et Dalila*. (Credit for Ruth Ann Swenson, who sings Handel's Cleopatra next June, goes to Terry McEwen, Mansouri's predecessor.)

The Russian mezzo's future with SFO is in doubt. Internet gossips reported that Borodina was one of the stars whose contracts were "bought out" by the new SFO regime. Rosenberg claims she is negotiating with the diva on future projects, but if Borodina does not return to SFO,



Russian mezzo Olga Borodina

I suspect the problem will be less repertory disagreement than Olga's disinclination to be tied to multiple rehearsals, a condition several agents have told me, off the record, was being attached to all new SFO contracts. Fine, but one hopes that common sense and flexibility will prevail. After all, Borodina, even arriving the week of the performance, can still deliver an exceptional emotional, musical and dramatic experience that some poor drone, meticulously rehearsed, could not approximate with a Roman candle up her skirt.

Rosenberg has repeatedly stat-

ed that she prefers singers who can act, yet one of the few stars the new regime has acknowledged will return is Jane Eaglen. Until we hear her perform, we have to take it on faith that Catherine Naglestad, who sings Alcina here in 2002, really does "burn up the stage," as Rosenberg puts it. And she has publicly lauded mezzo Joyce DiDonato, who made an enchanting appearance with the SF Symphony in *L'Enfant et les Sortil  ges*.

Frankly, with a few exceptions such as Borodina, Kasarova and Vargas, I'll take unknowns any day, as long as they have the chops to express themselves in the War Memorial. Remember that SFO gained its international reputation partly for daring to introduce America to such now-legendary talents as Schwarzkopf, Tebaldi, Nilsson, Simonato, Del Monaco, Rysanek and Jurinac, long before they were world-famous.

SFO's last two music directors did not display this magical divining act. Could Pamela Rosenberg be the one to restore SFO's luster by making stars, instead of jumping on the bandwagon after it is essentially too late? The mouth waters in anticipation. But first we have to get through 2001-2002. See you at *Arshak II*. ▼

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## Funny Girl

◀ Arts cover

sensation doing a comic version of Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils, which featured a Yiddish-accented song and patter. She actually spoke no Yiddish but, in an era where ethnic humor was an entertainment staple, was for years unable to escape typecasting. She tried dramatic plays, but they failed, so she returned to comedy. She also made a handful of movies without much success. Eventually, on radio, she scored as the fully assimilated "Baby Snooks," playing the character from 1936 until her death. What made Brice unusual was the public's acceptance of her as comedienne and torch singer, notably of "My Man," a classic doormat song. She married chronic gambler Nick Arnstein, who was repeatedly jailed for illegal activities. After their divorce, she wed impresario Billy Rose.

*Funny Girl* focuses on the relationship between Fanny and Nicky — presented as a Park Avenue dandy, a man of exquisite taste, the kindest, gentlest abuser imaginable. He also softens her coarseness, and, naturally, convinces her she is beautiful, or at

least desirable — a regular theme in Streisand's films. Streisand's Fanny is the noble, self-sacrificing wife, standing by her man as long as he needs her. Producer Stark married Brice's daughter by Arnstein, which may explain their idealized portrayals here. Brice herself summed up her two marriages thusly: "I didn't like the man I loved, and I didn't love the man I liked."

Streisand, to her great personal credit, is no one's victim. Here, as if apologizing for her assertiveness and independence, she glories in her suffering. Not since Joan Crawford's heyday as the screen's leading masochist has an actress reminded the audience at every turn of just how noble she is. Her performance is so carefully calibrated, so calculated to impress viewers with her self-sacrificing love, that it's mechanical. When a reporter questioning her about Nicky's arrest calls her "Miss Brice," she snaps, "That's Mrs. Arnstein!" She and director William Wyler were trying to match Judy Garland's wrenching line in George Cukor's *A Star Is Born* (1954), "This is Mrs. Norman Maine." Garland was as knowing an actress as Streisand, but she trusted the audience enough to be more subtle.

Streisand takes no such chances.

### Fresh 'Rose'

Streisand's comic skills and the musical sequences are the film's saving graces. "Second Hand Rose" is as fresh today as when the play opened, and Streisand's delivery is inspired. Similarly, her show-stopping turn in the "Beautiful Bride" number is hilarious, as is her burlesque of "Swan Lake." She rattles patter with the assurance of Groucho Marx, using her Yiddish shtick brilliantly. Wyler opens up "Don't Rain on my Parade," and she lets loose with it, using her clarion voice effectively. The treacly "People" is handled with some restraint, and she is marvelous as Sharif seduces her while crooning, "You Are Woman, I Am Man."

As Fanny grows more refined and successful, the film grows less interesting. Actually, the real Brice was infamous for her foul mouth, although, like Streisand in the movie, she dressed elegantly and later would fill her lavish Beverly Hills home with exquisite 18th-century French furniture. Streisand, however, drops any coarseness en route to becoming a Great Lady.

The rest of the cast polishes the star's halo. Medford is terrific in her few scenes as her mother, and Pidgeon is a dignified Ziegfeld.

Sharif's doe eyes and gleaming smile make Nicky very appealing. The Jules Styne-Bob Merrill score remains lively and singable. Irene Sharaff designed the dazzling costumes. Wyler, who guided more stars to Oscars than any other director, doesn't let anything get in the way of Streisand's showcase. He must, therefore, share the blame for her bravura, but dramatically inappropriate and emotionally unconvincing rendition of "My Man" at the end, belted out after she and Nicky agree to divorce.

Contemporary critics were split in their opinions of Streisand, just as they are today. But she had the last laugh. The film was a smash, she won the Best Actress Oscar (in a tie with Katharine Hepburn for *The Lion in Winter*), and over the next three decades became one of the screen's most successful star-director-composers. The movie itself garnered eight Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture, but lost to another filmed Broadway musical, *Oliver!* In 1975, Herbert Ross, who choreographed the dances in *Funny Girl*, directed Streisand in the sequel, *Funny Lady*. Most critics panned it, but it was a big hit, and the star chortled all the way to the bank. ▼



Barbra Streisand in *Funny Girl*

## 'Simply' falls short

by Richard Dodds

When Steven Brinberg nails a voice, it's uncanny. In a tour-de-force moment in *Simply Barbra*, he sings Sondheim's "I'm Still Here" in 13 different celebrity voices. He not only does such frequently mimicked voices as Carol Channing and Katharine Hepburn, but he also finds the distinctive nuances of more rarefied talents like Cleo Laine and Betty Buckley.

Brinberg's talent is best showcased in the brief doses that the "I'm Still Here" number provides. But this is an interlude in a 60-minute show at New Conservatory Theatre Center in which Barbra Streisand is the name of the game. In every song he sings as Streisand, there are moments when the connection happens. Yet they are often surrounded by stretches when the airy voice in which he sings has little to do with Streisand.

This would be less of a distraction if the show had more of the variety that "I'm Still Here" provides, but while the show is meant as a humorous homage, it offers relatively straight versions of many of the songs. What Brinberg has to offer isn't quite good enough to sustain this kind of treatment.

His version of Barbra is at its best when some sort of stunt is involved, as when he sings both parts of the duet on "You Don't Bring Me Flowers," or when he has Barbra offer absurdly ornate vocal mannerisms to the determinedly simple "Tomorrow" from *Annie*.

Despite a gown and a wig, Brinberg doesn't much look like Streisand, something the shadowy lighting is designed to obscure. Nor is there much Streisand in the voice in which he delivers the mildly amusing banter that gently ribs the performer's well-known idiosyncrasies.

The New York performer has had considerable success with his Barbra impersonations in many venues both here and abroad, but cabaret seems the most logical home for this sort of show. In a theater, the focus is too formal to let slide the shortcomings of *Simply Barbra*. ▼

*Simply Barbra* will run at NCTC through Sept. 16. Tickets (\$25-\$30), call 861-8972.

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## FILM

# Queer and South Asian

## 'QFilmistan' fest at ATA this weekend

by Gary Morris

Despite its status as one of the world's great cultures, India retains brainless anti-queer laws on the books: specifically, Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which categorizes "the act of homosexuality" — sodomy, fellatio, cunnilingus — as punishable by a life of imprisonment. Of course, determined queers can't be stopped by mere law; statistics say that 50 million Indians have sex with other men, and of those, 12.5 million are exclusively homosexual. These little tidbits come from Riyad Wadia's *Bomgay*, one of the standout works in Trikone's *QFilmistan* festival at Artists Television Access Gallery this weekend.

*QFilmistan*, billed as the first South Asian LGBT film festival in North America, is mostly a shorts showcase, but it includes one outstanding feature. The shorts cover a bracingly wide range of subjects and styles. *Bomgay* is the most ambitious of the ones screened. Structured around six poems by R. Raj Rao, this stylized tour of the gay male underground hits many a classic queer space, or transforms those that aren't already queer: the breakfast table, a Warholesque nude library, a grimy tearoom. Rao and Wadia's approach is both celebratory and satirical, the latter taking an amusingly scatological turn in lines like, "Constipation is an occupational hazard!" (They also thoughtfully reassure us that all's soon right: "Next day, the bowels are loosened, and you are redeemed by noisy shit jets!") The library scene, in which nude hunks eat eggs off each other's tits, should assure limited release of this work in India.

Another knockout short is Nishit Saran's superb reality doc *Summer in My Veins*. Nishit lives in America and is gay but closeted to his relatives. When his mother and two aunts come to visit from India, he decides to come out to them. But there's a complication. He's also recently had sex with an HIV-positive man and is awaiting the results of his test. *Summer in My Veins* follows Saran's double struggle, but the real stars are his mother and aunts, a randy, sophisticated trio who must translate their open, life-loving attitude into an embrace for their gay son and nephew. The mother's reaction scene, particularly, is a subtly riveting "performance" of a kind that can't be coached.

### Dykes on board

Lest it seem the fest is an all-



Waris Hussein's *Sixth Happiness*: lust for a hunky young boarder.

male event, there are also plenty of lesbian, tranny, bi, and general genderfuck works here. In Sheila James and Melina Young's *Lakme Takes Flight*, for example, a prop plane provides the perfect locale for a hot dyke tryst. All travel agents could take a lesson in friendly service from the one here, as she climbs on board and on top of her comely passenger. Their operatic serenading of each other adds a wonderful touch. Another worthy effort is Sonali's *Sum Total*, which dazzlingly deploys advertising conventions — isolated body parts, words onscreen — to show the lesbian identity as literally self-constructed.

Punam Sawhney's *The Goddess Method* opens with a young queen assailed by parental bitching — "Where did we go wrong?" — but offers an unexpected solution. The beleaguered boy becomes a drag queen, a cool dancing tranny who taps the inner goddess to fight the evil forces of parent and society. In a dazzling swirl, the queen's wild dance collapses the voices of disapproval into a mélange of harmless chatter.

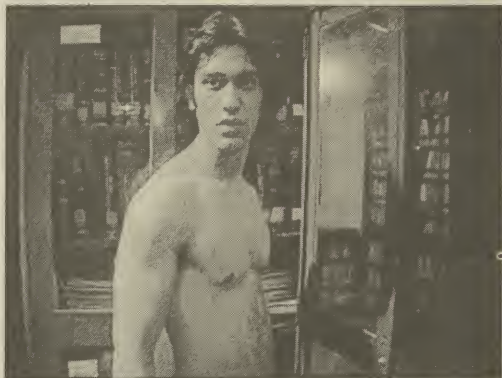
American pop culture, never far from the common consciousness and always accommodating

to queer sensibilities, provides fodder for several of the films. Gitta Reddy and David Kalal's *Hindustan* takes the '50s Bing Crosby/Rosemary Clooney title tune and has Hindi actors mouth the words of the "wrong" sex. David Kalal's *Love Song for Persis* is a sweet paean to the androgynous pleasures of Persis Khambatta, the otherworldly actress of *Star Trek* fame. Sexy Sabu of '40s Hollywood jungle-boy fame gets the icon treatment in Ian Iqbal Rashid's *Surviving Sabu*.

A must-see show is the *Desi Dykes and Divas: Hindi Film Clips* show compiled by Gayatri Gopinath and Javid Syed. The task of wading through thousands of old Bollywood musical melodramas in search of the occasional evil village queen or butch bulldagger must have been daunting indeed. The rewards are evident in bizarrely intriguing clips with sarcastic titles (imposed by the presenters) like "Two Dykes Sing to a Piano Queen About the Joys of Khush Love" — exactly what happens onscreen.

The lone feature here, Waris Hussein's *Sixth Happiness*, has been shown at previous festivals but remains unreleased on video. A pity, too, because the film is a wonderfully satisfying double-portrait of the tragicomic details of middle-class Parsee life, and of Brit, a four-foot-tall "boy" (we see him from birth to his 30s) with brittle bone disease, withered legs, and an undisguised lust for both the hunky young boarder and the latter's girlfriend. That the film visualizes these scenes without sentimentality is practically miraculous, given the usual approach to sex among the disabled, and one of many reasons to check out this festival. ▼

*QFilmistan* runs August 31-September 2 at ATA, 992 Valencia St. Info at Trikone, 789-7322.



Riyad Wadia's short *Bomgay* is a tour of the gay male underground.

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# Everything old is new again

by Victoria A. Brownworth

If you thought last week's ABC ratings-grabber interview between Connie Chung and Rep. Gary Condit sounded like you'd heard it all before, think of it as preparation for the new fall season. The Bush Administration may not believe in recycling, but the networks sure do.

We can safely say there are about four new shows worth watching among the 30-odd programs premiering on the four major networks. The rest are déjà vu all over again. (The 34 new shows don't include new programs on the three other networks that many of us watch, PBS, the WB and UPN, all of which carry several of our per-

sonal favorite shows: *Mystery!* on PBS, *Angel* on the WB, and of course, *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*, which is moving to UPN in two weeks. *Buffy* continues to have the only queer couple storyline on any network, Willow and Tara.)



Ellen: Ms. Yep, I'm Gay

The one queerish network venture for fall is — skip the drumroll — *The Ellen Show* on CBS, starring Ms. Yep, I'm Gay, Ellen DeGeneres. We wish we could say this show will be all the things *Will & Grace* is not. Then again maybe we can say that. *TES* will likely not be very queer — Ellen has already reiterated that to nearly everyone who will listen. The plot is exactly that of last year's big queer hype, Fox's *Nor-*

*mal, Ohio*, which starred an even bigger comedian, John Goodman. Queer girl goes home to small town to be with straight family. Riotous humor ensues. Or not, as was the case with *Normal*, which tanked after only a few weeks.

Of course, CBS is a bigger network than Fox, but it's also less edgy, and the average viewer is over 40. Can there be hope for Ellen on the network that gave us *Touched by an Angel*, and whose biggest hits are reality shows and *Everybody Loves Raymond*? CBS is PAX-TV for non-evangelicals.

What is Ellen doing there? And why is she chanting this mantra that her being gay won't drive the show? The only reason to watch is that she's queer. She stopped being funny a long time ago. But if you have nothing better to do on a Friday night...

Ellen isn't the only star christening a new sitcom. The WB will serve up country legend Reba McEntire in *The Reba Show*. But we can only say, if she ain't singin', we ain't gonna be watchin'. As for Jim Belushi's new sitcom on ABC, *According to Jim*, it looks suspiciously like the white version of ABC's *My Wife and Kids*. Which would make it both unbearably heterosexual and intolerably unfunny.

We predict the show most queers will tune into will be the

*Dynasty*-meets-*Twin Peaks* pot-boiler *Pasadena* on Fox. For those who have been miserable since the demise of *Melrose Place*, *Sunset Beach* and *Titans*, *Pasadena* looks like the intrigue of the rich and famous Spelling-esque show for fall. Money, murder and lots of sex. What could be better?

## Girl-crazy series

Although the sitcom debuts are a little boy-heavy, the drama series are definitely girl-crazy. Probably the season's best new se-

ries, ABC's *Philly*, starring *NYPD Blue* alum Kim Delaney and produced by the *NYPD* team, features Delaney as a District Attorney in Philadelphia. The Emmy-winning actress carries the smart-ass, no-nonsense acerbic persona that made *NYPD*'s Diane Russell such a riveting character. Delaney's a fine actress who deserves the spotlight after seven years in the shadow of the *NYPD* boys. *Philly* highlights her abilities and is edgy like *NYPD* and ABC's *The Practice*. Definitely one to watch. Tuesdays.

Another chick show from ABC is *Alias*. The network is doing intense promotion for *Alias*, which will air on Sundays along with the ratings-grabbing *Millionaire* and critically acclaimed *The Practice*. Another recycling job — *La Femme Nikita* redux. Lots of disguises, lots of explosions, lots of Emma Peel-style kicks in black leather catsuits. Meow.

NBC has its chick drama, too. *Crossing Jordan* stars *Law & Order* alum Jill Hennessy as a medical examiner with attitude. Remember Hennessy's ADA on *L&O*? Remember Michelle Forbes' ME on *Homicide*? Splice them together and you have Jordan. This, too, is a recycling job. Remember Jack Klugman's '70s show *Quincy*? Quincy had a sex change, and now the ME-cum-detective is Jordan. But Hennessy's a class act, so this show is worth a look. Mondays.

Theoretically, NBC's *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* can't be called recycling, as it's a wholly new show. But it is a spin-off of a spin-off. As the original *L&O* returns for its eighth season and its initial spin-off, *L&O: Special Victims Unit*, heads into its third, the Dick Wolf team obviously believes more is better. We'll see. It took two seasons for *SVU* to hit its stride. How the ensemble works will be essential.

No aspects of the law and order angle have lost cachet. NBC premieres *UC: Undercover* (guess the producers liked the way *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* looked on CBS; we find it a little repetitious) while ABC has the undercover show *Thieves* and CBS does *The Agency* with *ER* alum Gloria Reuben.

Also on CBS is *Citizen Baines* spinning off the success of *The West Wing*, and *Wolf Lake* spinning off the success of *Buffy* and *Angel*. *WL* does teen werewolves by the light of the silvery moon: *Dawson's Creek* with bite.

## Lost & delirious

When it comes to bite, the reality shows have taken a big one out of network time slots. Every network has a new reality show; most have more than one. NBC's *Lost* features several tag-teams being dropped in the middle of

nowhere somewhere on the planet. They have to find their way back to the Statue of Liberty to win. (Hey, is that what that French guy was doing in the parachute last week?) CBS' *Amazing Race* follows a similar path. Fox has *Love Cruise*, which looks incredibly trashy — this is *not* *yo Mama's Love Boat*. Seduction and backstabbing are the name of this game. Lots of in-your-face girl-fights.

Much as we wish it were, talk isn't dead. Call this the season of recycled *Oprah* as networks look for another black woman with the same magnetism as the high priestess of talk. Frequent *Oprah* guest and lifestyle guru Iyanla is debuting her own eponymous show, and NBC is going for the youth market with former MTV priestess Ananda Lewis. NBC is also spinning off *Mars/Venus* with *The Other Half*, a talk venue in which guys talk about women. Wonder who the audience will be — and when will that queer talk-show debut?

Speaking of queers and their lack of presence this season, there are a few queerish programs to watch for this fall, including a PBS *Nova* series on gender and a *Nightline* series on queers in America.

VCR alert: September 5, ABC's *20/20* will feature an in-depth interview between Barbara Walters and Anne Heche. ABC promos suggest intriguing revelations. Considering the bombshells Melissa Etheridge dropped in her *20/20* interview, we can't wait. Perhaps we'll find out what really happened on that afternoon drive through the Valley.

Walters & Co will continue to corner the prime-time news-magazine line-up on ABC with *Downtown*, *Prime Time* and *20/20*. *Downtown* does the edgy stuff, *20/20* covers the big interviews, and *Prime Time* takes whatever news is left. Chung's interview with Condit garnered huge ratings, making it one of the most-watched interviews ever. Chung was forceful, Condit evasive.

Remember when Mike Dukakis (who?) was asked in the Presidential debate if his wife were raped and murdered, would he seek the death penalty for her killer? Dukakis responded so bloodlessly, everyone thought that moment lost him the election. Condit never once expressed concern over the well-being of Chandra Levy. It doesn't matter if she was his groupie, his mistress or just his playmate, he acknowledged in the interview that they were "very close." Most people show some concern when someone they term "very close" goes missing.

On *GMA* the morning after the interview, even the unflappable Chung seemed stunned by Condit's inability to act the part of human. This was Condit's chance to reveal and redeem. Instead, he borrowed lines from OJ Simpson and Bill Clinton to obfuscate his way out of a terrible situation. Unfortunately for him, Condit has neither the chutzpah of OJ nor the charm of Clinton. Which means he's just a weasel.

Politicians are like network execs — they never learn from experience. Just as CBS thinks Ellen can take the same material John Goodman had last season and make a sow's ear into a silk purse, politicians who cheat can't comprehend that remorse is essential to regaining the approval of one's constituency. ▼

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Scott Cox and Bill Smartt play a gay couple in *Avow*.

## Blessed union

### Challenging the church

by Richard Dodds

There is scarcely a moment in *Avow* when you can forget you're watching a play. The characters all feel constructed to serve a dramatic premise, rather than born from it. And the premise can be alternately cute and contrived in the manner of episodic television.

But Bill C. Davis' play, now at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, is an interesting study in the power of petulance. The gay couple at the center of the play is quite willing to destroy a sympathetic priest's career over their insistence that the Catholic Church bless their union.

Their quest is not so much about spiritual need as it is about institutional reform, but that doesn't invalidate it. Tom and Brian grew up in the church, and they want to see it change so they can stay a part of it. But when the church fails to bend easily to their wishes, a rift appears that threatens to undo their relationship.

Davis, best known for his play *Mass Appeal*, lets his characters fall into debate-society rhythms as they argue their points. These little soapbox speeches deal not only with religiously sanctioned gay unions, but also the question of priestly celibacy. Somewhat too conveniently, the priest that Tom and Brian have been lobbying falls under the sexual sway of Brian's outspoken sister.

Director Christopher Jenkins' production treads appealingly, if somewhat stiffly, through this material. Scott Cox and Bill Smartt play the gay couple with impassioned conviction. Bruno Kanter finds signs of genuine humanity in the emotionally torn priest, and Fred Ochas provides an appealing naturalness as an older priest. Sherry Al-Mufti doesn't quite have the polish to make the most of Brian's comically rendered mother, but Donna Trousdale Berry has a prickly charm as Brian's sister.

Like a sitcom that falls back on a wisecrack after a brief surge of seriousness, *Avow* usually provides a cute button for the end of each exchange. The play does gen-

erate a fair share of laughter, and its debates can hold intellectual interest, but flesh and blood are in short supply. ▼

*Avow* will run at NCTC through Oct. 20. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.



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## Bea plus

by Richard Dodds

Bea Arthur told the audience that she wanted to do a one-woman show "to see if I had the guts to just come out and be myself." But what audiences saw last week at the Alcazar Theatre was still very much in the mold of the persona that has carried her from *Mame* to *Maude* to *The Golden Girls*.

The good news is that this character can still disarm an audience and that Arthur hasn't lost her mastery of takes and timing. She knows how to milk a pause better than anyone since Jack Benny.

Arthur has been traveling around the country with ... *And Then There's Bea*, a jumble of career reminiscences, an unpredictable collection of songs, some bitchy dish, and even several blue jokes. The barefoot Arthur spent a good deal of the 80-minute show ensconced in a wingback armchair, suggesting a casual evening, but really disguising a tightly scripted presentation.

Arthur did share some faux ad-libs and banter with onstage pianist Billy Goldenberg, an accomplished composer who looks like a nebbishy character out of central casting. Arthur made use of this, treating him with a comic disregard that Maude might have once inflicted on her Walter.

Eschewing mention of any of the personal components of her life (refreshing after Donna McKechnie's wallow the week before), Arthur concentrated largely on amusing tales of her early days in New York. She recalls how Tony Curtis was the first member of her acting class to find success in Hollywood, and how he proudly told the students when he "fucked my first movie star."

Arthur punctures her tales with songs that may be relevant to her career ("Pirate Jenny" from *The Threepenny Opera*) or whimsical red herrings ("What Can You Get a Nudist for Her Birthday?"). Her voice at age 75 is, shall we say, well-seasoned, but Arthur has a good handle on what it can do and what it should not do.

This is a gay-friendly show, to the point where Arthur lauds Vermont for its same-sex partnership law and celebrates Holland for going it one better. But even the heavily gay crowd on opening night may have gotten a little squirmy as she launched into a joke about a nun giving oral sex to a cab driver. But there was no reason to fear bad taste. It turns out it was only a gay guy in religious drag giving head. ▼



Bea Arthur offered songs, bitchy dish, and a few blue jokes.

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# Wonderful world of boys

by Mister Marcus

One of San Francisco's longest running traditions comes around again this coming Sunday, September 2 at the Eagle when the 19th Annual SF Leather Daddy's Boy contest takes place. It is incumbent on the current SF Leather Daddy to produce the event, which is and always has been a fundraiser for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

The "boy" phenomenon is old hat around these parts. The rest of the country lagged far behind the concept and the common belief is that being a "boy" is a "state of mind," a concept which has also taken a firm hold among the leather women. It was less than ten years ago that the boy idea became a part of the annual American Brotherhood Weekend contests, and the Utica Tri's in Utica, New York instituted the title only two years ago. The Drummer Boy title was instituted in the early '90s and now ranks among the major leather titles.

The tiring "old guard-new guard" argument has not been lost to the general leather tribe either. There are still those who resent the existence of this title, but in my view, these misgivings are totally unfounded. Having had the honor of judging many, many leather competitions around this country, I can vouch truthfully that many of the judges I served with were extremely impressed with the qualities of the boy contestants they judged. And I can also truthfully say that the consensus among these judges is that often, the boys outshone their daddies or sirs when it came to the intricacies of personal interviews, fantasies, amounts of money raised through benefits they staged and other aspects of an honorable nature. This is not to detract from the quality of sirs, but rather to point out that the boy world is here to stay and if you are unhappy about it, you would be wise to keep your opposition to yourself. Like anything else, if you don't like it, stay away.

The task of staging SF Leather Daddy's Boy XIX falls to Robert Davolt and his committee, and they have been hard at it to pro-



Mister Marcus

Stephan Blackwell, Mr. Southern California Drummer Boy 2001, will be the "other" Californian in the finals of the International Mr. Drummer & Boy 2001 contests in St. Petersburg, Florida on the weekend of October 4-7.

duce what appears to be an extravaganza never before seen with this contest. For starters, there will be a printed program with advertising. Also, after the contest, the winner will be shuttled in a limousine to Daddy's, the Edge, the Loading Dock and the Powerhouse to greet his community.



Bazaar

Putting the contest together has not been easy. Davolt was hard pressed to come up with qualified judges, owing to the fact that this very weekend offers a plethora of out-of-town leather gatherings that will be taking many seasoned leather people away from town.

For instance, there's Southern Decadence in New Orleans with the Mr. Louisiana Leather competition; the Los Angeles Satyr's MC annual bike run; the San Diego Leather Fest taking place in Palm Springs; and the inaugural Ms. World Leather competition in Dallas.

Nonetheless, the the SF Leather Daddy's Boy XIX compe-

tion will take place at the SF Eagle on Sunday, September 2, from 1500-1800, with an \$8 beer/soda bust, entertainment, food and hopefully a plethora of hopefuls. I remember the contest in 1987, when the then International Mr. Drummer Steve Reiswig of Seattle hosted the event that saw a whopping 26 contestants!

After the competition, the winner will be shuttled in a limousine to Daddy's, the Edge, the Loading Dock and the Powerhouse to greet his community — another different aspect of this contest.

Oh, it will be grand, all right. Too bad I will be in Dallas for the Ms. World Leather competition!

### Tracking Drummer

The regional Drummer competitions are history for this year. All the regions have staged their contests for Drummer Men and Drummer Boys, including Southern California where the long road to St. Petersburg came to a

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, August 28-September 2

If you're in Amsterdam, it's the Megatrash 4-day party billed as "5 days of Sodom & Gomorrah," with parties, play parties, dances, dungeons. For details, surf [www.clubtrash.com](http://www.clubtrash.com).

### Thursday, August 30

Meet & Greet Dock Foreman Stuart and Doc Master Joe at a Loading Dock beer/soda bust to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund at 2000.

### Weekend, August 31-September 3:

Ms. World Leather Contest in Dallas; Satyr's MC weekend run to Badger Flats; Pegasus MOC will be attending and leaving from in front of the Castro Theater on Friday, Aug. 31 at 0930. San Diego Leatherfest XI taking place in Palm Springs. For info: [www.leatherfestix@aol.com](mailto:www.leatherfestix@aol.com) and in New Orleans, it's Southern Decadence and the Mr. Louisiana Leather competition.

### Sunday, September 2

SF Leather Daddy's Boy XIX contest at the SF Eagle beer/soda bust for \$8 with food. Who will succeed Bob Dern? Be there! Also Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star from 1600 to 2000 for only \$7.

### Wednesday, September 5

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros, at 1930, with the subject: "S/M Bondage Art on Paper," plus Freddie Niemi expounding and showing his fabulous artwork.

### Thursday, September 6

It's about the 101st or 102nd Big Basket at the Edge, at around 2100, with a beer/soda bust and something to titillate the Old Bag.

### Saturday, September 8

In San Diego, 8th Annual Butch Review, with 19 acts on the stage at The Hole. It begins at 1900 with a \$10 donation to benefit Ms. San Diego Leather contests.

Cigar, dungeon, wrestling party at Castlebar. For more info, call (415) 970-9700; click on [www.castlebar.com/cock.html](http://www.castlebar.com/cock.html).

### Sunday, September 9

Beer/soda bust for \$7 at Daddy's, hosted by Mama Sandy to raise funds for the giant Leather Pride Flag for the Castro flag pole during Leather Pride Week.

There'll be a \$7 beer/soda bust by the Golden Gate Guards at the Lone Star from 1600-2000.



## PORN

# Manhood à la mode

by John F. Karr

It's always nice to have something sensational to write about, and Titan Media's new epic, *Sea Men*, is as sensational as they come. Even the names of its impressive new stars are sensational. Not only the monosyllabically butch Core and Stein, but get this: Dred.

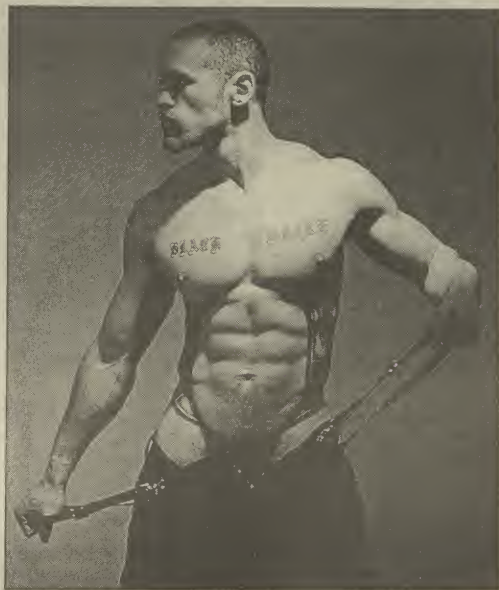
The top-billed top Dred Scott is a brute brushed by noir, lurking in the shadows before exploding into light. He seethes with restraint, and then: Pow, right in the kisser. Or the bung hole, it's all the same. And there's more than a bit of the Neanderthal about him. Like his mug, with its pronounced brow and labial creases. His lower jaw thrusts forward barbarously, and when he speaks, it's through clenched teeth, with a vocabulary that is largely snarl. His novel warning that you're about to get fucked is a huskily intoned, "Want me to break this dick off in your ass?" Oh, yes, yes, yes. There's a bit of Future Droid in the etched relief of Dred's sharp musculature, which is further exaggerated by some of the most cunningly placed tattoos I've seen on a body. Quite a fantasy, this Dred, but real. When Quentin Crisp denied the existence of "The Great Dark Man" who haunts the homosexual's dreams, he obviously didn't know about Dred. I'm scared of him!

I'm also pretty scared by lots of the violent (though always consensual) sex in this movie, which continually threatens to break through to the taboo.

The sex here is manhood mode almost all the way, played out as a feat of masculinity, a contest, my manliness bashed against yours; don't enjoy this sensation, endure it, tolerate it, until you're spent. You may feel such a bald exchange of aggression isn't nurturing, and it's true that a boy such as I am perhaps not the one to be watching the whippings, genital torture, and electric shocks depicted. But as portrayed here, this sexuality has a potent validity that's at times frightening. *Sea Men* has the nerve to be over-the-edge edgy, and raises the stakes for butch on film. Which is a good thing, I guess — although I don't know why such scenes have to be so serious. Can't these guys have fun?

## Pier pressure

The film's scenes are staged in abandoned cargo ships and aircraft carriers. Their ponderous chains and bold rivets, their steel bulwarks and stark interiors pro-



Top-billed top Dred Scott is quite a fantasy, but oh so real.

vide an unyielding environment perfect for this sort of aggressive sex. It's a mythic setting, like the ominous piers of New York, or that island of Circe's, where men were shown no mercies. There's little mercy shared among the cast members of *Sea Men*, and no mercy at all in the film's nonstop onslaught — this two-part

feature is an incredible five hours

long, and has only one minute of padding!

The surprise in the first scene is the amount of piss that gets guzzled. Oh, this is a pissy movie, alright, something I for one have been parched for. The industry has shied away from piss for too long, but you get a refreshing faceful here.

After some bondage, testicular and nipple torture, there's whipping and fisting. Things calm down for a three-way and a make-out session in the sailors' bar, where the barback pisses in the beer cooler, and the clientele let loose wherever they're standing.

Part Two begins with some advanced dildo work, and proceeds to some extreme SM, including clothespins, candle wax, and a saline drip which swells a bottom's balls up to grapefruit size before they get smacked around and fried with an electric wand. This was a bit much for me, and I was glad to return to the bar,

where things were normalized with an assortment of guys making out for a while, before adding dildos, self-fisting, and double-ended pumping action — of course, somebody pisses on the clear pump tube while the cocks are inside. The film's extended finale provides a fresh surprise: emotion. Dred finds a soulmate in Adriano Marquez, and, kissing and smiling, they make a brutal sort of love.

*Sea Men* has an incredible group of new performers, sporting some pretty fancy fetish and leatherwear (courtesy Mr. S and Fettes, USA). If Versace were butch, this is what we'd be seeing on showroom runways. Hell, I immediately mocked up some imitations and paraded down my front hallway, even though the mirror mocked right back. The movie also has amazingly true and warm color, expert lighting and videography, and assured editing. There's only one choppy section, with the body of the film delivered in sustained takes — made possible, I'm told, by the prowess of Dred Scott. *Sea Men* is available by mail order on VHS and DVD (its third disk will contain outtakes, backstage material, an extended pumping scene, etc.) A much-sanitized version of half the length will be available in retail stores and rental shops. Minus the mayhem, *Sea Men* is a different movie altogether — almost a romance. ▼

www.TitanMedia.com

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

smooth transition as Mark Malan attempted to bring a quality event to Southern California at Piston's last Saturday night, August 25. Cold feet, insufficient preparation time, and other glitches made it a fantasy night only. In the end, and according to Drummer, Inc. rules, one Chris Colas was named Southern California Mr. Drummer 2001, and Stephan Blackwell was named Southern California Drummer Boy 2001. Next stop: St. Petersburg, Florida. Hope to see you there!

## Folsom Street East

The SMMILE Board is flattered that New York's GMSMA decided to call their annual street fair Folsom Street East. This past June 17 saw the fifth annual celebration take place in New York, and GMSMA Treasurer Gill Kessler and FSE Chair Philip Williams were proud to present a check for \$16,000 to New York's LGBT Community Center, and another \$6,000 to Rivington House — all proceeds from Folsom Street East V. Bravo!

## Updates

Leather Daddy's Boy XVIII Bob Dern (soon to be a wuzzie)

leaves office next Sunday after an honorable year with the title. His dinner-date benefit at Daddy's last week netted a grand total of \$2,035 for beneficiaries AEF and the Leather Archives and Museum, as well as \$170 for Positive Resource Center, and the same amount to the Northern California G&L Historical Society. It was a grand way to end a title year!

Finally, the next time you're in San Diego, be sure to check out a new leather store there called — Ringold Alley! It's right next door to Wolf's Bar on 30th & Upas St.. They had their grand opening last Friday night, August 24. ▼

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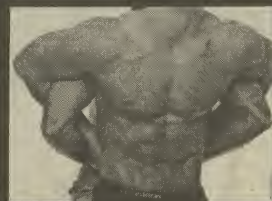
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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



"Lullaby" (detail), 2001, acrylic on board, by Timothy Cummings

## 'Neverland'

This coming first Thursday of the month, a traditional time for gallery openings, art surfers are advised to drop by **Catharine Clark Gallery** for a special treat, **Neverland: New Paintings and Works on Paper by Timothy Cummings**. The space is conveniently located amid all the other chic galleries at 49 Geary St., and it's filled with new works by one of our city's finest, hardest-working queer artists, a fixture of Hayes Valley queer culture.

Long an active participant in the queer underground art scene, inspired by the likes of artists Jerome Caja and Jim Winters, Timothy Cummings paints magnificent eyes on saintly figures that seem to have fallen from grace. Even his infants appear burdened by inherent evil or a premature understanding of the world's wicked ways. Their eyes gaze at us accusingly.

Born in 1968 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the slim, charming, dashing alternative Cummings is a self-taught artist who was deeply influenced by his native Southwest, where cowboys, Day of the Dead figures, Spanish colonial architecture, church iconography, murals, *retablos*, and other impressions shaped his conceits. He came to the city in 1993, where he started hanging out with drag queens and like-minded art/music fags, exploring the queer scene, sharing a Victorian flat with other artists, with every inch of wall space, from the stairwell to the bathroom to the closets, covered with framed works, creating countless opportunities at parties for exclamations of awe and related chit-chat leading to seductions and other pleasures. Cummings was turning out a remarkable body of work, initially showing it off in the usual funky spaces, most notably the Showroom and the now defunct Kiki. Eventually he graduated to the Morphos Gallery (now Catharine Clark Gallery), where he had his first solo exhibition in 1996 as part of *Introductions*. His work has appeared at Southern Exposure, Yerba Buena Center, and SF State University, and at galleries in Florida, New York, and elsewhere.

The quality of Cummings' work astounds anyone who thinks the designation "queer art" is a polite way of saying "trash." In Cummings' case, the product is pure gold. Like all great artists, he's an alchemist. How does he do it? The key to his success has been (in part) his firm focus and solid work habits. He paints daily for his living, at times scraping by, at times luxuriating in the success of a showing, but never compromising, and always producing. Cummings glamorously embodies the figure of the struggling artist who would rather survive on lentils and rice than produce big-money schlock. He's one of our queer-art treasures. ▼

"Neverland" shows Sept. 4-29 at Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary St. Info: 399-1439; cclarkgallery.com

## Fri

### Artists Television Access

**Trikone** hosts "QFilmistan," the first-ever south Asian lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender film festival in the U.S. Featuring new and old works on topics as diverse as transsexuals in Pakistan, rock star Freddie Mercury, Bollywood camp, and more. With experimental video, autobiographical pieces, narratives, and a feature film, *Sixth Happiness*, by Waris Hussein. With six programs beginning tonight with "Navel Gazing, Nasal Piercings." Other programs include "Sex and Fantasy" (Sept. 1, 4pm); "Travel Log" (Sept. 1, 7pm); "Family" (Sept. 2, 2pm); "Icon" (Sept. 2, 5pm); "A Little Sadness" and *Sixth Happiness* (Sept. 2, 8pm). \$35 festival passes available online at [www.trikone.org/filmistan/program.htm](http://www.trikone.org/filmistan/program.htm). \$10 individual tix (at door). 992 Valencia St. Info: 789-7322.

### The Women's Building

Free workshop: STOP AIDS Project "One Pill Makes You Harder." At \$10-\$20 a pop, Viagra appears to be the new gay drug of choice. Who would say no to a guarantee of virility — an erection that just won't quit? Here's your chance to talk about this magical blue pill's ups and downs. Free. 8-10pm. 3543 18th St. Info: 575-0155; [www.stopaids.org](http://www.stopaids.org)

### Venue 9

Tina D'Elia stars in her hilarious one-woman vehicle, "Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup." Directed by Ellen Sebastian Chang. One morning Tina, a Latina lesbian, wakes to find herself transformed into Groucho Marx. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru Sept. 9. 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom). Info/tix: 289-2000; [www.venue9.com](http://www.venue9.com)

### 1015 Folsom

"Nikita," the long-running, enormously popular club featuring progressive dance sounds by resident DJs Simon, Jeno, Jerry Bonham, and David Michael. In the main room: DJ Dan (LA), Sandra Collins (NY), Taj, and Gianni. \$10 cover (\$5 84 10:30pm). 10pm-6am. 1015 Folsom St. (at 6th St.). Info: 267-0568 or 974-9389.

### The Endup

"Fag Fridays," with legendary local DJs Blackstone, Ruben Mancias and Rolo spinning cutting-edge dance beats. \$10 cover. 10pm-5:30am Info: 357-0827; [www.fagfridays.com](http://www.fagfridays.com)

### 'N Touch

DJ Lambchop spins his favorite diva hits ("Mamma Mia," "Missing You," "I Need Your Love," etc.) for a night of high-energy dancing with the added attraction of sexy go-go boys and a largely gay Asian crowd. 1548 Polk St. Info: [www.ntouchsf.com](http://www.ntouchsf.com)

## Sat

### Noe Valley Ministry

Birthday bash and concert for singer-songwriters Virgil Shaw (with the Killer Views) and Sonny Smith (with The

Sweet Jesus and Little Dick), plus special guests Carrie Bradley (of 100 Watt Smile), Ralph Carney (of the Tom Waits band) and Highballers From the Planet Hell, an old-time country-flavored band featuring both Messrs. Smith and Shaw's fathers. Expect a friendly, folksy, family crowd. \$10 advance/door. 8pm. 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd St.). Info: 487-1701; [www.sonnysmith.com](http://www.sonnysmith.com).

### Skylight Gallery, SF Main Library

Opening reception: "Zapfest," an original exhibition of type design and calligraphy, officially called "Calligraphic Type Design in the Digital Age." Guests of honor: world-renowned calligraphers and type designers Hermann Zapf and Gudrun Zapf von Hesse of Darmstadt, Germany. 2pm. Civic Center. Info: 557-4560; [www.zapfest.com](http://www.zapfest.com)

## Sun

### First Unitarian Church

The G 40 Plus Club hosts Tony Esoldo, director of the Western Regional Office of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Foundation, speaking on "The Victory Fund: Its Aims and Works." The G 40+ Club, San Francisco's Prime Timers chapter, is a social organization for senior GLBT men and their admirers. It meets on the first and third Sunday of each month. Free. 2:30pm. 1187 Franklin. Info: 552-1997.

### 1015 Folsom

"Spundae Labor Day Blowout!!!" with DJs Tiesto (Nettwerk, Holland); Darren Pearce (Radio One, UK); Grant Plant (Spundae LA); Jason Blakemore (B3 Cande, LA); Jerry Bonham (Spundae; Nikita); Jeno (Wicked; Come-Unity); Dave Coleman & Sen Sei (Kinetic Grooves, SF) Taj (Spundae; Baby's); Gianni (Spundae; Nikita); Johnathan Ojeda (Spundae Records); Galen (Sunset Party, SF); Ellen Ferratto (Sugar, SF); and Norman Stradley (Remedy). Spundae is an enormously popular club with all dance-music lovers, especially of the LGBTQ persuasion. Celebrated trance DJ Jerry Bonham is the creative force behind the club. Located on Folsom at 6th St. Info: 267-0568; 974-9389; [www.spundae.com](http://www.spundae.com)

Storyteller Brenda Wong Aoki (below), along with composer Mark Izu, discuss their art at SF PALM. See Thursday.



## Mon

### El Rio

Bored by Lilith Fair slow-and-sweetness? Sick of cock-rock festival slam pits? Come to "Twang," the third annual, female-fronted, estrogen-drenched, guitar-filled Labor Day party. A full day of electro-acoustic, raw, heartfelt expressions and sweat-soaked guitars from renowned female bands, including the Shelley doty X-tet, Bitsy Lee (from LA), Michelle Muldrow, Cash Hollow, Flatcracker, bust or combust, Velvet Janes, Mosquito Torpedo, Jonesin', and special guests. Produced by Hilary Reed and Allison Hennessy. \$8-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOP). Doors open 3pm; performances 4-9pm. 3158 Mission St. Info: (510) 832-1849.

### 848 Community Space

"QComedy Showcase," this week hosted by Dana Cory, with Mary C. Matthews, David Guiney, Melanie Borba, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$8 (NOTAFLOP). 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info: 541-5610; [www.QComedy.com](http://www.QComedy.com)

## Tue

### El Rio

Opening night: Outdoor Cinema presents "The 5th Annual MadCat Women's International Film Festival." Tonight featuring *Maedchen in Uniform*, a legendary film from the German post-Expressionism period, extremely daring for its time, suggesting lesbianism in the story of a young girl whose identity is choked by the authoritarian boarding school

she attends. For years critics have argued over whether the film is a lesbian romance or an allegory on fascism. This is precisely the kind of dialogue Madcat is committed to inspiring. This year's showcase includes films from: Estonia, the UK, India, Poland, Hong Kong, Austria, Japan and Ireland. Makers take on activism, love, lust, evil toys, "family values," pirate radio and the Dewey Decimal System (among other things), in 8 programs of films and videos. \$7 cover. Complimentary omnivore barbecue 6:30-8pm; film at 8:30pm. 3158 Mission St. (btwn Caesar Chavez & Valencia). 21+ w/d. The MadCat film fest runs Sept. 4-27 at El Rio Outdoor Cinema (282-3325), Artists' Television Access (824-0603), and the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley (510-642-1412). Info: [www.somaglow.com/madcat](http://www.somaglow.com/madcat)

### Intersection for the Arts

Jazz at Intersection presents the pounding rhythmic beats of "Asian Crisis," an ensemble consisting of Jason Jong on taiko, John Kim on changgu, Francis "Kiko" Lac-samana on sarunay, kuling and electric bass, Meena Mahijana on tabla, Art Hirahara on piano, Leon Lee on flute, and Jeff Chan on saxophones. The traditional percussion instruments from China, India, Japan, Korea and the Philippines are employed in new contexts of jazz, gospel, funk, and hip hop. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Info/tix: 626-3311.

### Club Eros

"Ride Right on the Edge," a workshop to do and learn tantric masturbation. Reach higher consciousness and the

Darren Blaney appears in *The Bird Letter to Sandra Bernhard* as part of the SF Fringe Fest. See Thursday.







Steven Patterson, Bill Parker, and Matt Klein appear in *The Pilgrim Project* as part of the SF Fringe Fest. See Thursday.

most intense stimulation possible. Free. 7:15-9:30pm (door closes at 7:30 or when room is full). 2051 Market St. Info/ground rules: dick at 863-4154; www.tantricism-turbation.net

## Wed 5

### El Rio

Fundraiser for progressive, student-run radio station KUSF, featuring the live music with Leavenworth, Sinombre, Mah & Stereo Steve's Bubble of Tranquility. 7pm door; 8pm show. 3158 Mission St. Info: 282-3325.

## Thu 6

### Metropolitan Community Church

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence host the hit community fundraiser "Ba-da-BINGO!" \$12 for 10 Bingo games, with cash prizes up to \$250 per game, plus special gifts, a chance at a valuable door prize, and the antics of the Sisters. Doors open 7pm. 150 Eureka St. (near 18th St.). Info: 552-0220; www.TheSisters.org

### SF PALM

Lecture: San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum presents storyteller Brenda Wong Aoki and composer Mark Izu in conversation with SF Bay Guardian theatre critic Brad Rosenstein. The discussion will range across Aoki and Izu's unique creative partnership, which spans decades and continues to explore a wealth of cultural influences and styles through their company, First Voice. Held in conjunction with the exhibition *Performance Japan: Pacific Crosscurrents* (thru Nov. 17), guest-curated by Yoshiko Kakudo, Curator Emerita of SF's Asian Art Museum. The exhibition explores the best-known forms of traditional Japanese theatre — Noh, Kyogen, and Kabuki — and how they have been reimagined by Aoki, Izudirector Yuriko Doi, and choreographer June Watanabe. \$10 (\$5 students/SF PALM members). 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), Veterans Bldg., 4th Floor. Reservations: 255-4800. Info: www.sfpalm.org

### ODC Theater

Opening night: Peter Whitehead and the Lower Back People (Elaine Buckholtz, Norman Rutherford, Yari Mander, and Sally Davis) perform "The Mission is Not Impossible," a tribute to one of

SF's most unique neighborhoods, which Whitehead, a native Londoner, has made his home for the past 16 years. The work addresses the Mission's gentrification, artist displacement, immigrant population, and ups and downs with humor and poignancy. Whitehead's museum-quality hand-crafted musical instruments — the canjo, fiddle, flute, heart banjo, lawn lyre, spoonharp, spike fiddle, and others — are built from found materials including skis, metal drums, coconuts, spoons and lampshades, and an amplified cactus. Spike. Whitehead's film scores include the theme for the SF Int'l Film Festival. \$15. 8pm. Runs Thu.-Sun., 9/6-9; Thu.-Sat. 9/13-15. Located at 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odcdance.org/theater

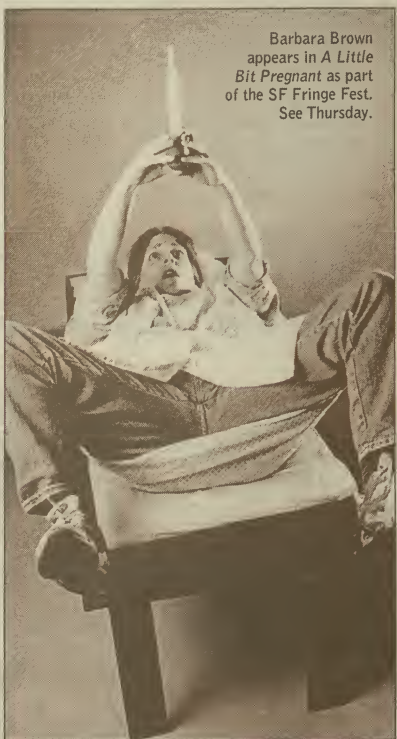
### EXIT Theatre; EXIT Stage Left; EXIT on Taylor; Phoenix II

The San Francisco Fringe Festival marks its 10th anniversary with a theatrical extravaganza of cutting-edge, eclectic, live performances. A total of 53 groups and artists will stage 256 performances over 11 days, in five adjacent theatres off Union Square. All shows are \$8 or less; tix available at showtime; all shows 60 minutes in length or less (except Bring-Your-Own-

Venue performances). See several Fringe performances in a single afternoon or evening; safari between shows; hobnob with other safari-goers thronging the sidewalks outside. \$8 (or less) per show; \$55 Frequent Fringer pass (good for 10 shows). Thru Sun., Sept. 16. Mon.-Fri. 7, 8:30, & 10pm; Sat. & Sun. 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7, 8:30 & 10pm. EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy St.; EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy St.; EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St.; Phoenix II, 655 Geary St.; Phoenix II (downstairs), 653 Geary St. Info: 673-3847; www.sffringe.org

### Herbst Pavilion

Members Preview Sale: Friends & Foundation of the SF Public Library offer members a chance to preview the "The 37th Annual Book Sale," with more than 125,000 volumes available at low prices, all donated by generous citizens. Several large, high-quality bequests have raised the level of books even higher than usual. The sale is famous for its finds — from a 16th century book on the rules of dueling to hollowed out books containing money, jewelry, and even gold teeth. Members only today, 10am-1pm; open to the general public 9/7-8, 10am-6pm, and 9/9, 10am-3:30pm (on Sunday, all books are reduced to \$1 each). Free admission. Fort Mason



Barbara Brown appears in *A Little Bit Pregnant* as part of the SF Fringe Fest. See Thursday.

Center, foot of Buchanan St. Info/membership: www.friends&foundation.org

### Roxie Cinema

Opening night: "Cine-mayaat," the 5th Annual Arab Film Festival, with some 20 feature length films and documentaries, plus 50 shorts, from Algeria, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the US and Yemen. With retrospectives on Moroccan cinema and the works of Syrian filmmaker Mohamad Malas. The program also commemorates the 10th anniversary of the advent of the Gulf War, as seen through the eyes of filmmakers, artists, and journalists. \$9 (\$7 students, seniors, disabled). \$70 festival pass. Thru 9/9 at the Roxie (also 9/9-11 at Berkeley's Fine Arts Cinema, and 9/12-16 at San José's Towne Theater). Tix: 564-1100.

### the project rm.

Opening reception: "Alter Ego," paintings & works on paper by Jacek Sroka, a major artist out of Poland, renowned for his absurd, grotesque vision of the world. His style is influenced by the early German and Italian neo-expressive movements. His figurative work's archaic pictorial language expresses a satirical view of the world. the project rm. is a collaboration of Kalbanowski Fine Arts Ltd., and Ebert Gallery. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St., #440. Info: 397-0147.

### 'N Touch

"Klub NRG," featuring men from Nob Hill Theatre. Hosted by Tita Aida, the First Lady of the 'N Touch. With the "NRG Divas" live on stage, plus special guests, fabulous events, and spectacular promos. DJ Feel mixes the latest HINRG music. \$3 cover. 9pm. 1548 Polk St. Info: 441-8413; www.ntouchsf.com; www.nob-hilltheatre.com

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photo by Steven Underhill

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## PARTING GLANCES

**N'Touch Sun 7/15 You:** Slim Asian N w/glasses and little stache & goatee, dancing w/friends. Me: tank top, GWM, playing pool. I like the way you move. You smiled back. Let's meet! ☎ 71508

**Ron, Club Asia Pride Week 6/22** You: White with gray shirt. Me: Asian with black tee shirt. We chat about Bangkok. Please call, I would love to see you again. ☎ 71511

**AIDS Walk: Cute In Bof A Shirt** You were with Asian friend in Schwab shirt, I was sitting nearby on grass. We exchanged glances and smiles more than a few times. Let's talk. ☎ 71512

**Sexy Korean Bi-Stud Boy-Man** You're in my dreams, you're in my prayers. Hang in there, Sean. Many love you. Be strong! ☎ 71529

**Elevator Going Down** On July 24 in my Van Ness Ave apartment building. You with a neat beard, me with a mustache. Sorry I didn't speak up. ☎ 71530

**"You Know I Was Looking At You!"** I stood next to you on the F Market line Castro St. last stop! 8/11 sun afternoon. You blond hair, brown leather jacket, me a woman! Let's talk, your cute! ☎ 71582

**Muni Early Eve 8/2 Castro Stop** Me: WM, black pullover, brown hair, earrings with tall White guy in black cap. You: BM in blue jacket. You smiled, I was shy. Coffee? Talk? Sex? Marriage? ☎ 71566

**Asian, Black Gap T-Shirt N'Touch** Then @ Universe (7/14). Asked you to dance, but you were w/friend. Me: tall, blond, gray sleeveless t-shirt. Would like to meet and get to know you. You're cute! ☎ 71510

**Alan With Two Great Danes** I met you July 5th @ 12th Howard getting coffee. You caught me staring when you walked away. I was back looking for those blue eyes. Me 6'2", 180lbs. Tattoos. ☎ 71509

**Peet's At Battery Appx 8am** About once a week we say good morning. You- grey hair, slim, handsome with winning smile. Me grey hair, tan, blue eyes, handsome. Possibly coffee together or more? ☎ 71531

**On The 35 Eureka Bus 7pm Sat 11** August. Young Asian? Dressed in white med length pants. Me older White, in bicycle clothing seated across you. Exchanged glances. You got off at 24th street. Would like to meet you. ☎ 71567

**Spikes Sunday August 5 Noonish** You: tall dark with goatee. Me: tall with green glasses. We talked about your golden while, petting my collie. You were having coffee w/ friend outside. Coffee sometimes? ☎ 71568

**Sat July 11:15pm Van Ness & Hayes** You: cute, well mannered young man small tat2, I-arm, paused, said "good afternoon, Sir". Me: s&p dad-type, tan shirt, blue pants, caught off-guard, speechless, would like to meet you. ☎ 71581

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Horny Old Fart Seeks Similar** SF GWM 65, 6, 176 HIV- into J/O, nips, cock sucking and rimming seeks similar in the City. Prefer ht, wt, at least, somewhat proportional. ☎ 71513

**Life Is Very Short I Am Very Hungry** & for true relationship. Me: 40yrs old, 5'8", 145# attractive slim, athletic, Japanese seeks SGWM 45-55yrs old- must be honest sincere. Lots of humor for ltr/monogamous-oriented. You little chubby. Serious only. ☎ 71514

**Looking For A Friend** Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for a companion in the city, to do things with. Enjoy movies, hiking, classical music, computers, dining out and your interests. ☎ 71515

**Poz Bottom For 40+ Leather Top** Seeking ltr with in-shape leather top/daddy who loves cockworship, assplay, B&D, and taking care of his good boy. I'm 48, 6', 145, br/br, smooth, 100% bottom, HIV+. ☎ 71516

**Regular Guy Seeks Friend & More** 5'9", 145# swimmers build, nice chest wash brd, abs, tan, handsome very fit L.T.R. weekend get togethers in S.F. HIV- must be handsome & in great shape. ☎ 71532

**Sexy GWM Masculine Top 48 6'** 165lbs, passionate, friendly & educ. HIV+ work-out, ISO any race 28-48 bottom HIV+, work-out body, genuine, fun-loving NS, ND, no bar scene, let's talk. ☎ 71533

**Cuddly Fit Guy Sks Smart Asian** I'm 48, 6', 160, athletic, attractive HIV+/healthy, professional seeking trim, fit, Asian for dating. You're smart, happy, independent, and love to cuddle & kiss. ☎ 71535

**Any Tall Guys Outthere?** Looking to date? I am young looking 43 yr. old, GWM living in SF and tall guys make my day. You be 5'10" and up GWM into fun & romance. ☎ 71570

**I Love Older GWM** Attractive Asian male 50 5'8", 155# affectionate and caring, seeks clean shaven GWM over 55 for ltr. We are healthy and HIV-, we both need love and special person to share with. Pls call. ☎ 71536

**Tall Wants Short** GWM 57- 6'4", 260 HIV- top looking for GWM bottom 40+ prefer 5'5", 5'8" but open- smoke/aroma+ +. Call ☎ 71553

**Need Strictly Top E/S Bay Playmate** Me: Handsome Healthy Mid-age Asian Bottom, fine shape, 5'7"; You: Clean Top, N/D, no communicable disease, any race/age, have big able tool eager to pump me deep. ☎ 71551

**GBM Seeks GW Or Bi WM** HIV ng very straight acting 46 look early 30's new to area, outgoing, down to earth, very socialable, in shape, not into the bar scene seeks same. Also very handsome. ☎ 71552

**Oral Top Needed!** For very bi curious oral wannabe bottom. Your under 40, smooth, clean shaven w/a negative gentle patient understanding, submissive, dress in drag, a huge+ looking long term. ☎ 71554

**Good Catch - Partner and Friend** Seeking both. Me: GBM, 50, top, educated, professional, and enjoy many interests. You: GWM, 50-60, educated, bottom, and easy-going. Let's talk, have dinner, drinks, smoke a little, converse, and have good sex (maybe not all the same evening). Please be beefy, beardless, single. Sensitive/responsive nips a big plus. Pls. call ☎ 71555

**~Young Cute Russian~** Looking for another European, Russian or cultured American to love and be loved. I have various interests, I am healthy and sexy. You be same and no older than 40. ☎ 71556

**Monogamous Muscular Asian** Seeks GM, 40-55, HIV-neg. with sensitive nips for exclusive mutual titplay & body worship in S.F. I'm 5'7", 150#, 40c, 30w, HIV-neg. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 71550

**HIV+ GLM Seeking HIV+ GWM** 41yo 5'10", 155 attractive healthy in shape funny romantic easy going top/versatile. Movies dancing, playing tennis, you similar 35-45 bottom/versatile proportionate, no drugs, smoke, alcohol. ☎ 71569

**Yogi Seeks Boo Boo** GWM, 5'11", 240#, smarter than the average bear. Seeks cub to share hibernation and picnic baskets. ☎ 71571

**~Redhead~** SWM 40, 5'10", 170, Santa Rosa native, ex-navy. Enjoys talk radio, exercise & the outdoors. Seeks female. ☎ 71572

**Nylon/Spandex Lover Wanted** GWM relocating to S.F. seeks friends. Am an avid movie goer, love ballet & dance and the sensuality of nylon tights, panty hose, kissing, touch & the outdoors. ☎ 71583

**Seeking Senior 70 Or Older** Masculine WM like long pussy eater seeks senior mentor to train me to become your on-call cock sucker to serve you at your command. ☎ 71584

**HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans** Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71534

**Masculine Maui Muscle Man** GWM seeks a husky lover, slave or boy 25-42. I'm 49 (looks younger), 5'9", 165 HIV- and hung br hair/eyes. Trustworthy and sincere. Looking to meet on Maui or in SF. ☎ 71585

**Looking For A Friend** Shy GWM, 58, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for a companion in the city to do things with. Enjoy movies, hiking, classical music, dining out and your interests. ☎ 71586

**Male Mistress Wanted** For sexy long term friendship and sweet times together. You over 45, under 5'8". Me, GWM early fifties 5'4", 125lbs. High energy with a good sense of humor. ☎ 71587

**Great Catch Asian For GWM** Very attractive GAM 30 slim, easygoing, friendly, boy next door type, not into the scene seeks similar masculine, goodlooking GWM/GLM 40 or under for dating, poss. LTR. ☎ 71588

# BAR TALK

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# Something's coming

Books and writers to watch out for this fall

by Deborah Peifer

If there is anything we Bay Area bibliophiles like more than reading, it's gathering with like-minded souls to talk about all manner of things bookish. With no Readers & Writers on the horizon, and various other book festivals moribund or worse, it seemed as if we were going to be stuck just talking to one another. Not that that isn't wonderful, too, but we long occasionally for other voices, differing points of view, new women to — but I digress. Just when I was considering despair the only reasonable response to the crisis, *voilà!* The Lambda Literary Festival (formerly Behind Our Masks), the only national GLBT writers conference, is coming to San Francisco this fall.

The Festival runs October 19-21, and looks to be a dazzling combination of literary lectures, discussions, panels, and enough GLBT stars to keep us all in a

swoon. Mystery writers John Morgan Wilson, J. M. Redmann, and Mary Wings talk about their craft during the panel discussion "Serial Killers: Writing a Mystery Series." Felice Picano, Dorothy Allison, Patricia Nell Warren, and Mark Wunderlich discuss the tricks of the literary trade. Complete information on panels,

lectures, slams, tributes, and everything as well as ticket order forms (including on-line purchase) are available at [www.lambdalit.org](http://www.lambdalit.org). Register early, as this event sells out, and won't you feel

the fool if you miss this extraordinary gathering of GLBT talent.

## Something good

We can count on some wonderful books in the upcoming months. Lawrence Schimel's second collection of short stories, *His Tongue* (North Atlantic Books), is on the fall horizon. Schimel's first collection, *The Drag Queen of Elfland*, was an extraordinary reading adventure. The man has a



sense of humor and a wicked sense of style, a delightful combination. He writes that "I'm still living in Madrid, but plan to be out in SF for the Lambda Literary Conference in October."

The third Denise Cleever thriller, *Out of Sight* (Naiad), by the amazingly talented Claire McNab, should be on any mystery-lover's wish list. McNab's Carol Ashton series is marvelous, but the new series is filled with lots more humor, and lots more danger. Also from Naiad this fall, a new romance, *Substitute for Love*, by Karin Kallmaker (*Frosting on the Cake*). With chocolate and at least a hint of leather, this *Substitute* may be better than the real thing.

Ever wonder how Divine got that way? Alyson Publications may have the answer with *My Son Divine*, a mother's story of raising the boy who would become Divine, by Frances Milstead with Steve Yeager and Kevin Heffernan. Need a few laughs, as well as a wry commentary on gay life? *The Little Book of Neuroses: Ongoing Trials From My Queer Life* by Michael Thomas Ford (Alyson) is

just the ticket.

Seal Press' fall highlights include *Yentl's Revenge* (no, this is not a book about Barbra Streisand!), an exploration of the next wave of Jewish Feminism, edited by Danya Ruttenberg. *The Unsavvy Traveler*, edited by Rosemary Caperton, Anne Matthews and Lucie Ocenas, is a collection of comic disasters that answers the question, Why do bad (road) trips happen to good people? If you don't know what you'd do if you ran into a bear in the woods, when you were armed only with M&Ms (peanut, but really), this *Traveler* is for you.

New Victoria has mysteries on its mind this fall, including *Slay Me Tender*, a new Aubrey Lyle mystery by Jenny Scholten, whose first novel, *Day Stripper*, was a remarkable and moving look into the lives of sex workers. *Theoretically Dead* is a first novel by Tinker Marks, in which murdered philosophers and frozen sperm are just the beginning of the troubles in this puzzler set in the wilds of academia.

## If you can't wait

If all the promises of reading richness to come have caused a severe case of I-want-to-read-something-now, consider *Heroes and Saints and Other Plays* by Cherrie Moraga (West End, \$15.95). Moraga is a great playwright, and her work is as moving on the page as it is on the stage.

Can't wait for The British Museum's traveling exhibition of Egyptian art? It won't be at the Palace of the Legion of Honor until August 10, 2002! The University of California Press is here just in time with the magnificent *Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum* (by Edna R. Russman; \$39.95), a catalogue of the exhibit with stun-

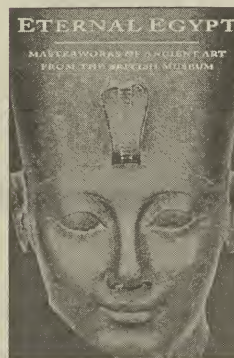
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If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.



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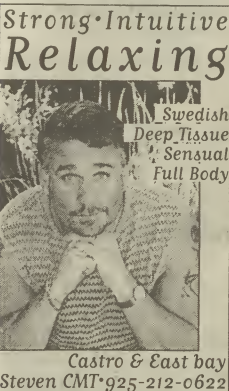
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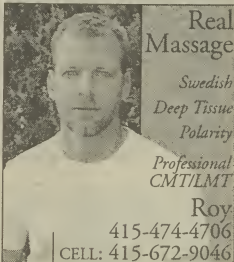
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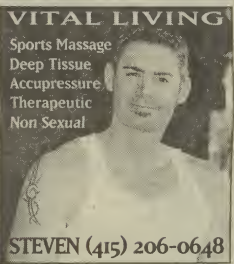


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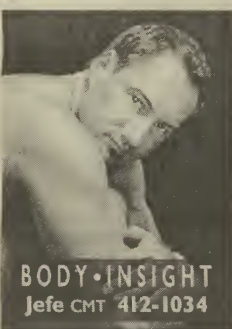
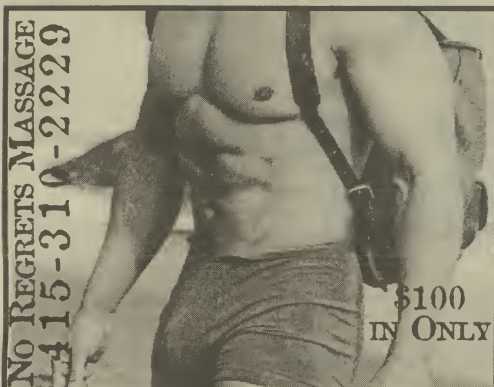
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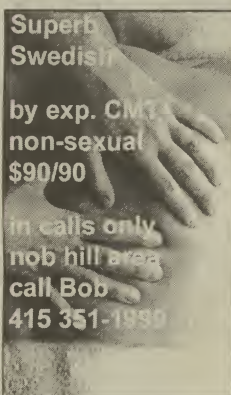
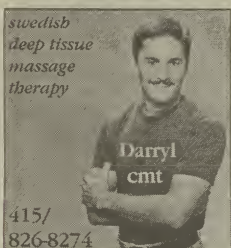
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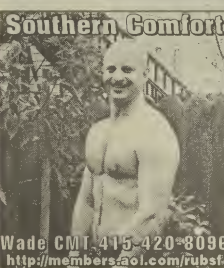
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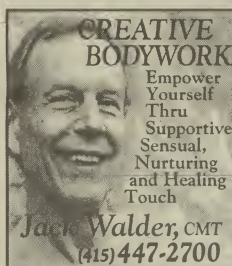
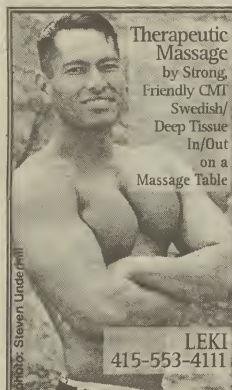
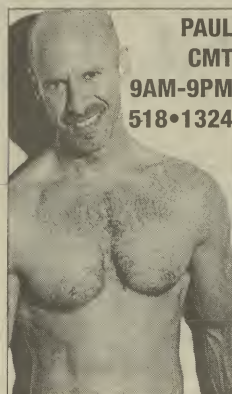
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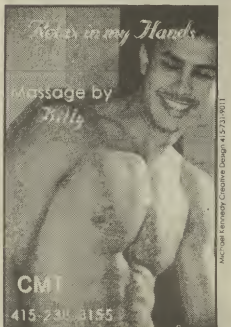
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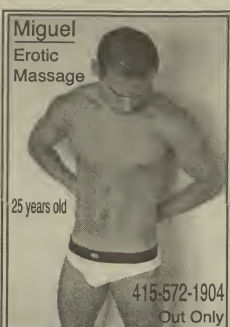
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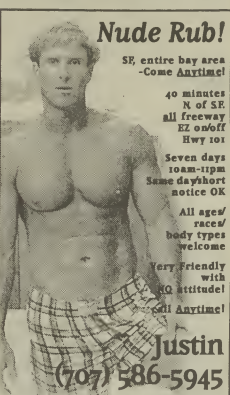
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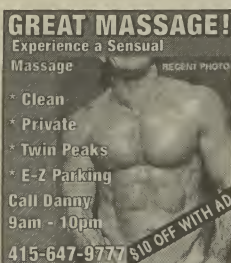
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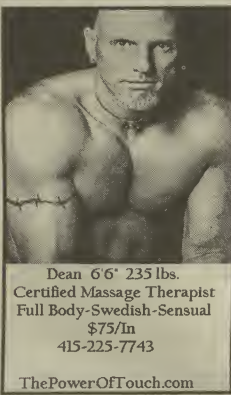
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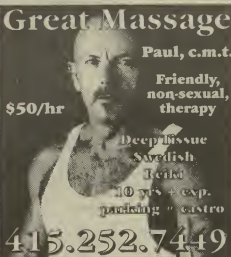
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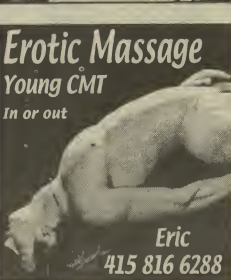
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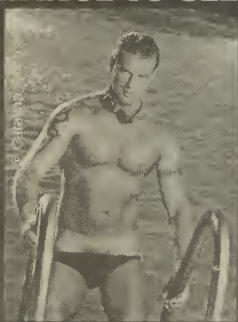


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**Handsome Hairy Hung**  
6' 160# 35 AllTop

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Fetish Play  
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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS  
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25 GWM 6' 190lbs 32wst Big Legs  
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Hot, horny, handsome \$65in/\$85out

33, 5'8" 150# toned hairy tattooed  
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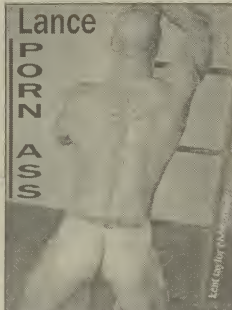
Handsome 24yo w/packed shorts  
**SOCCER JOCK**  
Lean, athletic body- top/vers  
Kevin pg# 605-5328 in/out 24/7

HANDSOME/HUNG/HORNY/HAIRY  
6'2", 215#, 35 MUSCLE TOP  
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Xtremely good-looking. German  
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**PIERCED 6'1" 155 TLC**  
**9x6  
TOP**  
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Tall, dark and handsome. Size 13  
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5'9", 135#, 6'c, Thin Swimmer's Build,  
Great Legs & Ass, Cute, Boyish & Playful.  
In-Out, Versatile/Open Minded. 24/7.  
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Italian 6'2" 200pds. 35yrs. old.  
Thick fat tool, hung 9x6.  
Smooth and muscular. Also  
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**\*10"X6" \*UNCUT\***  
Role play\*very verbal\* W/S  
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6'235# very handsome 34yo stud w/  
**THICK MUSCLES**  
Great thighs/calves & big manly  
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19" arms; also avail for foot

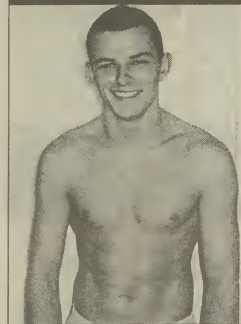
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**9"** 24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs  
Dark blonde hair  
hazel eyes  
washboard stomach  
27" waist \* versatile  
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10"X6" CUT 6'6" 220 BR/BL 45YO  
**XTRA HUNG DAD**  
All scenes-kink- 24 hrs 255-8093,  
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Justin, 24 6'2", 175 cute,  
Naturally smooth runners build,  
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Southern boy here to play 6'2"  
blu eyes blind hr smooth fun and  
ready to explode 19yrs old call me  
24/7. Cell always answered.  
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6'3", 235lbs, muscular, inked,  
thick stache & tool 13ee feet  
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47 kicks back 4 serv. Derek 207 0381

\* HORNY-MSCLD-TOP-40 \*  
**MSCL SEXY DAD**  
UNCUT 8" 5'9"-165#. HDMS  
Hairy \* buzzd \* w/go-t \* very gd  
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Union Square 415 251 1698  
Hung top 24hrs In/out

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25yo, 5'11", 172lbs, big uncut,  
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**LEATHER/SM/FANTASY**  
40yo top 6'1", 195# 7" uncut, flat-  
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Scott (415) 414-1132Pg# In / Out

9 1/2x7 1/2" low hangers-top 4u  
to play with 40 6'175lb  
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5'8", 145# 27yo hottie; muscular,  
masculine and friendly Asian  
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33yo 5'5", 130# 8.5x6"  
Vgl So. Italian top  
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Bodybuilder,  
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,  
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New in town from  
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Special cravings? Enjoy erotic  
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hung, trim, intense  
6' 175lbs 8"  
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I'm friendly, versatile, 32yo.,  
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sized parts with you. See me at  
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Goodlooking inshape horse-hung  
10"x7" thick, uncut clean & friendly  
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28, 5'11", 210#, br/bl, solid,  
48"e, 33"u, 17"a, bubble butt,  
educated, friendly. Thurs-Sun.  
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Byrs w/ Click! NY model agency.  
Appeared in numerous T.V. commis.  
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Clubmed. mag. work inc: "Mens Fit-  
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blond, smooth, v.atl. 36yrs. v. hung  
(9.5x7 thick) prefer top, open, fun  
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25, 5'11", 165#, blond hair  
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Vgl vers masculine dude 8x6 5'8"  
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5'10" 150# Toned body brown /hazel  
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8Thick "PlumpTastyAss Versatile  
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Great hairy body 6', 180lbs 28yo  
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Sexy great body 21yo 5'8", 145lbs  
8" uncut easy going versatile  
(415) 577 7778 New model

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Leather fetish welcome-outcall  
6'2" 165# brn/grn-have friend  
to join-all Bay Area-have car  
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By hot hung top pg 888 215 2268

X-handsome x-masculine 235# 34yo

### SACRAMENTO STUD

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### 9X6 24-HOURS

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### HORNY LATINO BOY

Eric 24yo versatile handsome  
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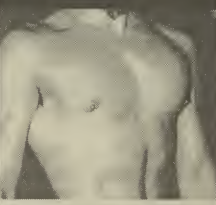
### THE ANACONDA 5'10"/172LB

11 1/2 hung escort (510) 310-7655

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-long, & slow- my specialty.  
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned  
master into all aspects &  
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### Bruno

6'3" - 235 lbs



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Very attrive 5'10, 175lbs 10 1/2cut  
muscle, tattoos, smooth, versatile,  
exotic dncr, in/out \$170 call  
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Hungry mouth bi 8"daddy like yng-  
18-40 non hairy uncut Asian, Latino  
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Masculine, discreet, handsome  
9"hung, athletic, muscular, 5'10"top  
6'2", 190lb. hairy, lean versatile top  
5'11"165lbs, lean build, hung 9"  
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### 24yo sexy tall dark Latin lover

many fetishes accommodated  
outcalls only 415 430 2161 ext 1872

### HOT SEXY BLACK TOP

5'6", 145 28yo  
10 1/2 uncut call  
J.R. at 648-7391 pg\*540-1553  
in 90 out \$140 Jayson Williams

### TOTALLY BOTTOM

Very good looking Latino man  
willing to serve you. I'm 29 y/o  
5'6" 155 lb. Call Carlos 24/7  
anytime (415) 346-0752

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47" hairy chest, 17"bi's, 32"waist  
big nipples. 9 1/2" of thick meat  
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We're back, I'm still not cute,  
but my friends always are! =)  
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All types, some 24/7. Page me, all  
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descriptions accurate.  
Safe, discreet & always friendly.  
(415) 219-0770 Joey \$210+/hr. Bye  
P.S. Applicants 18-26ish welcome

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Vers/handsome/ 145 toned lbs/yum!  
Diff scenes \$125/ Bobby 251-1643

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190  
48  
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6'1"  
240#  
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6'3 Butch Top In/Out  
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**SIZE 12 FEET  
21YO WM 6'2"**  
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28yo. well-hung w/big balls for  
oral enthusiasts\* Clint\*540-5311  
**SHVD HEAD STUD**  
Tall, goodlooking & go\* teed 24hrs.

Sq\*cut, lil go-t  
**XXX MLTRY**  
Bleyes 5'10, 145lbs, 8cut  
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big & small! 641-7400 Ed 44  
**1ST TIMERS OK!**

**READY FOR SWEATY FUN**  
30yrs old, masculine  
5'10", 160, blue eyes, tight  
body, ripped abs, hung 9" thick  
cleancut, vers, 902-9477

### Dominant Daddy

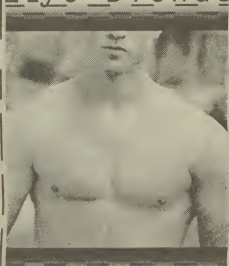
41yo,  
6'1", 220#,  
Brown Hair,  
flat top,  
Blue Eyes,  
mustache,  
7" Uncut.  
Bondage,  
SM, WS,  
CBT,  
F/F,  
Fetish,  
Slave  
Training.

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affection  
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### 21yo Blonde



6ft 165 Smooth  
Gym built and  
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Matt pgr: 560-7456

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Climb my long legs to savour  
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seeks cute slim boy for real times. Wild is good. So is intellectual, funny, gorgeous. Ever considerate. (510) 537-7757

**WHO WILL BE SF LEATHER DADDY'S BOY XIX?**  
Sunday, Sep. 2 at the Eagle at 3PM Beer/Soda Bust and the competition for the SF Leather Daddy's Boy title. Only \$8 to benefit worthy charities

**OLD FASHION SPANKING**  
over Daddy's Knee (415) 864-2766

**CONGRATULATIONS & Thanks to BOB DERN, SF LEATHER DADDY'S BOY XVIII**  
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GM wishes to relocate from SF to rural area. 650-213-9091

Over 65 guys cum jack off on my face AD1936@Juno.com

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www.daddyhoward.com

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Explore your desires...TONIGHT! On The Confidential Connection! 18+  
**CALL 415-247-2000**  
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FDA Approved vacuum pumps/surgical, permanent & safe. Enhance erection. Latest enlargement info. 619-295-HUNG or 900-976-PUMP (\$2.95 min)

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**SON WANTED TO BE**  
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## PEOPLE

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**FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP!**

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**BAY AREA REPORTER**

**CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM**

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

**X-BOLD** Stops Here ▼

**BOLD** Stops Here ▼

**CAPS** Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

**DEADLINE**

**NOON on MONDAY.**  
Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

**RATES**

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
**BOLD** double price  
**X-BOLD** triple price

**PAYMENT**

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ American Express

Minimum \$10 charge.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT**

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL WITH  
PAYMENT TO:**  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
SF, CA 94103  
**OR FAX TO:**  
415.861.8144  
**OR E-MAIL:**  
baradv@aol.com





HEPATITIS A&B...no big deal, right?

Nausea so bad you want to die  
A month away from work.  
No appetite for weeks.  
No sex. No beer, no wine,  
no vodka. No gym.  
Stuck in the hospital.  
Yellow skin. Yellow eyes.  
Fever. Chills.  
And years later...  
some liver damage,  
maybe even death.

## You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

**PROTECT YOURSELF!** See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at [www.glma.org/hepatitis](http://www.glma.org/hepatitis)

  
**AIC**

San Francisco  
Department of  
Public Health

**Adult Immunization Clinic**  
101 Grove Street (Grove and Polk)  
Suite 405  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.2625

[www.dph.sf.ca.us](http://www.dph.sf.ca.us)



**GLMA**  
GAY & LESBIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

[www.glma.org](http://www.glma.org)

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